

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

Friday, December 17, 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

Martin Snapp Now is the time to send holiday cards to Sundar Shadi [A7]

Opinion Parting thoughts from retired Councilwoman Jane Bartke [A5]



Dear Santa

MARTIN SNAPP looks into Santa's mailbag on page A14 and tells how you can help St. Nick answer some of the thousands of kids' letters that have arrived at the Oakland post office just awaiting an answer.



RICHMOND Fire Department Capt. Marvin Mears eavesdrops as Brianna Contaxis-Tucker, 4, of Berkeley tells Santa what she wants for Christmas.

Santa arrives at Plaza

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Taking time off from the North Pole, Santa has been making his annual visits at the Plaza. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the big guy in the red and white suit has been thrilling youngsters at the Plaza Santa's Village and will continue through Dec. 23. Last Saturday, plenty of little ones

See SANTA, Page A10

Here's your chance to play Santa to needy kids

The Albany Police and Fire departments, in cooperation with the United States Marine Corps Reserve, are again hosting a Toys for Tots drive for needy children.

Albany police officers and firefighters are encouraging people to drop off new unwrapped toys to one of the numerous collection barrels during the holiday season.

Last year, the police and fire department received over 1,000 toys for needy children in and around the community.

Each year the requested amount of toys needed increases faster than donations can keep pace. A simple truck or doll will make a child happy this Christmas. So police and firefighters are ask-

See NEEDY, Page A4

Tax funds few new programs

Shortfalls mean current AUSD offerings get bulk of revenue

By Amy Chen

ALBANY — Inauspicious revelations of parcel tax revenue being used to fund existing programs instead of creating new ones, disclosed before the school board Tuesday, have left some residents scratching their heads in puzzlement.

"I can't help but feel that I've been somewhat duped by what's happened to the parcel tax," said frustrated parcel tax campaign organizer and supporter Belinda Lum.

Lum was among the Albany commu-

nity members who took to the streets with fliers and signs prior to the June election to drum up support for Measure A, the successful ballot initiative that is now the subject of funding scrutiny. During the campaign the measure was touted as a way to bolster funding for arts, sports and other non-core programs.

But according to projections in the Albany Unified School District's first interim budget report, the district is expected to spend \$167,437 more than it will receive in revenue for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The report also showed that

the majority of parcel tax funds have been used to pay for existing programs instead of implementing new ones.

"Whether you say it's all gone or not depends on how you shift state money around," said Assistant Superintendent Constance Hubbard in response to a question from an audience member who wanted to know whether "all the parcel tax money was gone."

Hubbard used a computer analogy to explain how the district keeps tabs on

See PARCEL, Page A10

Plaza merchants holding their own

Stores making most of present while pondering life during upcoming construction

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — In an informal survey of Plaza businesses last week, shop owners and managers report that although things could be better, business is generally good this holiday season. Despite the Plaza's image of a shopping center with problems, and new competition from computer Internet sales, the 1950s-era Plaza is holding its own, thank you, during this last Christmas before reconstruction.

A stroll through the Plaza last Saturday afternoon revealed the shopping center to be busy, but not packed. Shoppers, perhaps after buying fresh produce at the Farmers Market in the south parking lot, walked from store to store—some stopping at Waldenbooks, some going on to Longs. Some looked at the train sets and other fun things in the Kit & Caboodle hobby shop window. Santa's Village was open in the interior mall for kids of all ages. Free gift wrapping was available at an outdoor table along the south side of the old Emporium building.

"People like the store and they like the people who work here," said Melissa Lacombe, manager of Waldenbooks, when asked about her busy store. About a dozen customers browsed the shelves—maybe looking for that perfect literary Christmas gift or the latest Maeve Binchy.

"We are on a par with other book-

See MERCHANTS, Page A13



SEE'S CANDIES employee Sandra Kokoruda packs up a troop of chocolate Santa's for a customer.

Judge says blight designation made hastily

Eastshore area property owners left out of process

By Tom Lochner

ALBANY — A judge has voided the creation last year of a redevelopment area along the Eastshore Freeway, saying city officials failed to give property owners a

fair chance to defend their turf from claims that the area is blighted.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge James Richman, said the city abused its discretion last year when it declared the 140-acre corridor along Interstates 80 and 580 as a redevelopment area.

In an order delivered Nov. 17, Richman did not rule over the issue of blight, but criticized the city for holding a final

See BLIGHT, Page A13

Bartke, La Force honored

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — More than 60 people attended a reception last week to honor former council members Jane Bartke and Norman La Force, who retired last month after eight years on the City Council.

Friends, family, supporters and even political opponents, joined in the good cheer and fellowship of the reception.

City Manager Gary Pokorney, council members Janet Abelson and Larry Damon, and Mayor Mark Friedman were among those attending the event.

In emotional and clearly heartfelt remarks, Jane Bartke's husband, Richard, a former El Cerrito mayor and council member, told those gathered about the hard work and long hours Jane put in during two terms as councilwoman and mayor.

"She had to rearrange her life," Richard Bartke said about his wife. He recalled Jane's long hours of service to the city and regional boards, and said she often went to two or three meetings a

See HONORED, Page A11

GGF will stick to horses

Card room no longer in plans

By Demian Bulwa

ALBANY — The new owners of Golden Gate Fields say the only future studs at the racetrack are the ones in the paddock.

Plans for a card room at the track—which prompted an ongoing legal fight between former track owner Ladbroke/USA and a scrappy group of residents—are out to pasture, said Lonny Powell, vice president of racing operations for MI Venture Inc.

The company is a subsidiary of Magna International Inc. of Canada, an auto

See HORSES, Page A11

INDEX

Calendar	Page C5
Crossword	Page A7
Opinion	Page A5
PTA News	Page A2
School Watch	Page A4

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Letters to Santa

Children can bring in their letters to Santa and the North Pole and place them in the large Santa Mailbox located at the Albany Library and Community Center Complex at 1249 Marin Ave. in the Recreation and Community Services Department Office. Please enclose the child's name and address with the letter. Child will receive a personalized response from Santa at the North Pole.

Picture Poems

"Picture Poems" by Sharyl Gates is on exhibit through Jan. 15 at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Sharyl Gates, artist, poet, and illustrator, will have 3-foot and 4-foot acrylic on canvas, "Words and Painting" and poetic pieces in showcase created published and present, 1985-1999. For more information or to be on mailing list for future exhibits phone or fax 527-9374, or write to P.O. Box 2082, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

HAUSMUSIK will present its holiday concert, "Nowell Sing We," at 8 p.m. Saturday, and 4 p.m., Dec. 19. The concert will be at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., and will feature medieval, Renaissance and traditional music from the British Isles, Germany and Scandinavia. Featured musicians will be Kristin Womack, mezzo-soprano; Eileen Hadidian, (at right) recorder, flute and harp; Natalie Cox, lever harp; David Morris, Renaissance guitar and viola da gamba; and Julie Jeffrey, viola da gamba. Tickets are \$17 general, and \$14 for students and seniors. Refreshments will be included. Reservations are recommended. Call 510-559-4670.



ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

Attention: Scrip buyers

All Albany PTA's have now converted to electronic scrip for Safeway and Andronico's; we will still sell paper scrip for Lucky's/Albertsons and Natural Grocery. E-Scrip is an electronic Scrip program where a supporter (you!) registers any or all of one's MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express, ATM, Debit or grocery loyalty (Safeway Club) cards for a \$10 annual fee. Supporters then use their registered cards when paying for merchandise at participating merchants.

The merchant then donates a percentage of the sale to your PTA. For \$10, you can sign up one school. If you have children in different schools and wish to split the profits between schools, it will cost an additional \$5 per school per year to cover accounting costs. Better yet, ask a relative or friend to sign up for the other school, and you won't have to split the profits!

To register your cards with eScrip, call 800-400-7878 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, check out the Web site at www.escrip-inc.com or call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782.

Following are the Albany school numbers for eScrip:

Albany High School—136925439
Albany Middle School—136556344
MacGregor High School—139258791
Marin Elementary School—136951780
Cornell Elementary School—

136926069

Ocean View Elementary School—136951432

Albany High School

SCRIP Orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). We are selling Lucky/Albertsons and Natural Grocery scrip. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429.

Attention: Online Shoppers. Support AHS by going to access 125 merchants including Amazon.com. The code for AHS is the zipcode 94706.

BONUS: send you e-receipts to by Dec. 31 and AHS will Receive \$10 for every purchase plus a percentage!

Jan. 3, PTA meeting, 7:15 p.m., AHS Library

Albany Middle School

SCRIP Orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). We are selling Lucky/Albertsons and Natural Grocery scrip. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at cho.prn.lo@cho.org.

Jan. 6, PTA meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library

Cornell Elementary School

SCRIP sales: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). Lucky/Albertsons, Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCRIP for sale Wednesday and Friday from 8:15-8:45 a.m., and Wednesday after school.

Jan. 12, PTA meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Marin Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school, at both early and late bird times, and Wednesday after school.

Orders can be placed in office at any time. Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above).

Reminder: Please remember to save and turn in General Mills boxes for education to office.

Jan. 13, PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Marin Multi-Purpose Room

Ocean View Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school on playground. Ask for Kim Denton. Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above).

Jan. 6, PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

AUSD Board of Education

January 11, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD District Calendar

Dec. 20-31, winter break, NO SCHOOL, Happy Holidays!

Jan. 3, 2000, CLASSES START

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

Girls fight at Albany High

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — On the morning of Dec. 6, a resident on the 400 block of Cornell Avenue reported that during the night thieves stole her tan '85 Toyota Camry that was parked in her driveway. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Dec. 6, a resident on the 700 block of Gateview Avenue reported that during the night thieves entered his unlocked gray 1986 Honda Civic and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

■ During the nights of Dec. 9 and 10, thieves broke into several storage lockers on 900 block of Evelyn Avenue, and on the 900 and 1000 blocks of Kains Avenue. Various items were stolen and the thieves departed unseen.

■ On the afternoon of Dec. 8, officers responded to Albany High School to reports of a 17-year-old Albany girl being assaulted by another 17-year-old Albany girl. There were no serious injuries and officers took the report and will continue the investigation. It had not been decided at the time of the report whether the matter would be handled by the police department or the school district.

■ On the afternoon of Dec. 9, officers responded to Albany High

School on reports of a 16-year-old Albany boy threatening another 16-year-old Albany boy. Officers are investigating.

■ At about 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 9, officers investigated a report of a blue '88 Honda that had been stolen while parked at Golden Gate Fields on the 1100 block of Eastshore Highway. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 10, officers stopped a gray '94 Mazda on the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue for erratic driving. The driver, a 24-year-old Richmond man, was found to be intoxicated. A check found that he had an outstanding warrant from Oakland. He was arrested, cited and released when sober.

■ At about 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 10, officers responded to Albany Middle School on reports of two juveniles being detained in the principal's office for being in possession of drugs and alcohol. Officers arrested the two 13-year-old Albany boys for possession of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol. They were cited and released to their parents with a Notice to Appear.

■ At about 3 a.m. on Dec. 11, officers stopped a black Hyundai for erratic driving on San Pablo Avenue

Chamber of Commerce to elect new president

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce will elect a new president at noon on Dec. 17 when the organization meets for its final business session of the year.

Election of the new leader and members of next year's executive board will come immediately after the names of the winners in the recent balloting for the chamber's board of directors are announced.

Members of the chamber had until last Wednesday to select nine new directors from a field of 11 candidates. Those running for the board included:

Incumbents: Sil Addiego, Locators Real Estate; Rena Burton, Bank of the West; Marge Collins, Collins Property Management; Marsha Conwill, Tradeway Stores; Bea Doherty-Vincent, Doherty's Truck and Auto Rental; Michael Klingner, Sunset View Cemetery; John Olivero, Olivero Plumbing; Larry Seidell, Seidell Chevron; and Charlie Weaver, CPA.

Rounding out the field of candidates for the board of directors were Allan Essex, Financial Network Investment Corp., and Bob Winslow, Winslow Carpet Cleaning.

The new president, executive board and members of the board of directors will officially take office at an installation dinner scheduled to be held January 28. Retiring from the presidency at that time will be Bill Kerber, who has headed the chamber for the past two years and played an active role in civic matters.

Today's meeting, to be held at noon in the El Cerrito-Albany Masonic Center, will have a holiday theme.

Kerber will host an "Attitude Adjustment Period" preceding the luncheon. Following the business session, chamber members and guests will get a chance to win Christmas gifts donated by local businesses.

Up for grabs will be a large number of gift certificates and a wide variety of valuable merchandise, including wine and liquor, stuffed

animals, lamps and jewelry.

Membership still growing

Two new members joined the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce last week, pushing this year's recruitment total to a record high of 78.

The first of the chamber's newest members is Audi Vance, a business consultant with a firm called All Systems Go! and local representative for an Internet program called Locality.com. El Cerrito businessmen can arrange for a free two-line Locality.com listing on the Internet by contacting Vance at 526-3761 or calling Locality.com at 800-446-2620.

Joining the chamber as an associate member was a nonprofit organization called Battered Women's Alternatives which is headquartered in Concord. This organization can be reached by telephoning 925-676-2845. Serving as the group's representative to the El Cerrito Chamber will be Kimball Lane.

Newest chamber benefits

Membership in the El Cerrito Chamber now entitles local businesses to new exclusive benefits manager Sewall Ginternick announced this week.

As members, he explained, businesses are entitled to a free two-line listing on the Internet Web site maintained by a company called Locality.com. Cost of such a listing, Ginternick added, is normally \$99 per year.

Chamber members will also receive a \$100 credit toward the production of any Locality.com Showcase Web site. Production charges for designing such a Web site normally start at \$299.

To take advantage of these benefits, interested members may call business consultant Audi Vance, one of the local chamber's newest members, at 526-3761.

According to Vance, Locality.com is the fastest and most convenient way for local shoppers to find the

POLICE NEWS

near Carlson Street, Richmond, was to be intoxicated, the driver was cited and released.

■ On the morning of Dec. 10, a resident on the 1100 block of Eastshore Highway reported that during the night thieves broke into his 1985 Oldsmobile and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Dec. 10, a resident on the 1100 block of Eastshore Highway reported that during the night thieves broke into his 1985 Oldsmobile and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

During the week of Dec. 10, Albany officers responded to reports of alarms, attended to reports of a released animal, arrested a person who was locked out of a car or car and responded to a report of a barking dog.

In the domestic violence section, 24 reports of disturbances and 71 Civil Harassment cases were reported.

Albany officers stopped 57 citations and 11 citations. Albany firefighters responded to four fire calls and medical emergencies.

El Cerrito Chamber

By Sewall Ginternick

businesses they seek.

"With our proximity to technology," Vance declares, "we are only one click away from business in El Cerrito."

Information on how to take advantage of these Internet benefits obtained by telephoning Vance or using the application form in the member byline or by visiting his/her office at 10848 San Pablo Avenue.

Vance is a computer programmer with 24 years of experience in business consulting, Internet sales, marketing, accounting systems for small and medium-sized businesses.

Time to see Santa

There is still time for youngsters to talk directly to Claus, thanks to the general Plaza Merchants Association members, most of whom belong to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce.

Santa will be available with youngsters and for gifts tomorrow and next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 1:30-4:30 p.m.

St. Nick will be in a festively decorated new stage located next to Walgreens in the former Toy Symphony at 470 El Cerrito Plaza.

Entertainment book

Sale of Entertainment Weekly 2000 will close down on Dec. 17.

Those who want to buy as gifts and for their own use urged to make their purchases soon as possible.

Books may be obtained at the chamber office, 10848 San Pablo Avenue, or at Kiefer Furniture, San Pablo Ave.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the El Cerrito police report is not available this week.

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Miami	\$105**	Indianapolis	\$74*
Minneapolis	\$119	Chicago	\$93*
Orlando	\$74*	Tampa	\$74*
Cleveland	\$74*	Detroit	\$95**
Philadelphia	\$96**	Columbus	\$74*
Boston	\$102**	Jacksonville	\$74*
Houston	\$74*	Denver	\$94**
Atlanta	\$152	Charlotte	\$110
Pittsburgh	\$110		

INTERNATIONAL
Simple Discounted Fares from San Francisco (Each Way Based Upon Round-Trip Purchase)

DESTINATIONS	FARES	DESTINATIONS	FARES
Milan	\$195	Cairo	\$417
Paris	\$171	Lisbon	\$195
London	\$132	Toronto, CAN.	\$152
Mexico City	\$138		

NOTE: SEAT AVAILABILITY MAY BE LIMITED FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Terms & Conditions: Fares are subject to change without notice. Fares are not guaranteed until ticketed. Travel restrictions apply to advance purchase and excursion fares. Some fares are non-refundable and may require a service charge along with an additional collection for any changes. Fares do not include \$3.10 airport passenger facility charge where applicable. International fares do not include taxes/charges of up to \$75. Eligibility requirements, seating limitations and/or purchase and travel restrictions may apply. *May not apply to all destinations/times.

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IN BRIEF

Gathering honors

La Force's council service

EL CERRITO — Friends and supporters of retiring El Cerrito Councilman Norman LaForce made a donation to the El Cerrito Library for environmental education to honor LaForce for his "outstanding service to the City Council and many years of community service, unflagging dedication, and work on our behalf and on behalf of the environment."

Over 50 people gathered at the home of Julie and Paul Rogers to express their appreciation to LaForce for his eight years of service. Among them were Assemblywoman Dion Cannon, who urged him to continue his work in the public interest. He received a plaque from Senator Don Perata to "recognize and honor Norman LaForce's exceptional qualities, his outstanding activism and his dedicated service to the city."

Dads' radio show gets
Toy Story 2, at 11 a.m., Saturday.

EL CERRITO — "Father Time," a weekly radio show for and about fathers, will feature Matt Luhn, one of the original story artists for the locally produced Disney movie, "Toy Story 2," at 11 a.m., Saturday.

Luhn will discuss some behind-the-scenes details on making the film, and how the story and gags were developed.

During the program, listeners may call the artist at 510-525-0103 to ask questions. As a special holiday treat, callers will be eligible for copies of "Father Time" airs 11 a.m.-noon, Saturdays on KECG-FM, 88.1 and 97.7.

Doug Spangler is the creator and host of "Father Time," which begins its fifth year in January. Spangler is parent educator for the West Contra Costa Unified School District and has written a book, "Fatherhood: An Owner's Manual."

Library has events

for young and old alike

KENSINGTON — The Kensington Library has several upcoming free events for children and their parents. The library, which is at 61 Arlington Ave., is open 1-6 p.m., Mondays; from 8-8 p.m., Tuesdays; from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursdays; and from 1-5 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays.

■ "Chac, the Rain Spirit," an opera for children of all ages, will be presented by Opera Piccola at 7 p.m., Tuesday.

■ Children can drop by the library between 3-5 p.m., Thursday, to participate in some Christmas crafts and

to help decorate the Christmas tree.

■ The Johnson Brothers, who make their own puppets, will present their new Christmas play, based on the legend of St. Nicholas, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21.

■ Story time for families will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesdays. The program is suitable for children 4 and older and their families. The new series begins Tuesday, Jan. 4.

■ Juggler Keith Eveslage will entertain children of all ages, with his manipulation of common and unusual objects, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 25.

For information, call Pamela McKay at 510-524-3043.

TV program looks
at mental health

Contra Costa Television takes a look at how mental health professionals are meeting the challenges of the county's ethnically diverse population in its monthly Mental Health Perspectives program.

The live call-in show, "Multiculturalism in the Mental Health Profession," will air at 8 p.m., Monday, on CCTV.

Contra Costa Television is on Channel 18 in El Cerrito, Hercules and Richmond; and Channel 27 in Crockett, El Sobrante, Pinole, Rodeo and San Pablo.

California Revels offer
winter celebrations

OAKLAND — In celebration of the Winter Solstice, the California Revels will present "The Christmas Revels," a fully staged theatrical production, today through Sunday.

Performances will be at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Dec. 19; 8 p.m., Friday; and 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, at the Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lake-side Drive.

Revels productions vary from city to city and year to year, highlighting a particular culture and period. This performance, directed by David Parr, represents Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, with rarely seen or heard dances, folktales, music and instruments.

The program will include choruses, puppetry artist Ralph Lee, the Karelian Folk Ensemble, the Santa Lucia Children, the Mountain Horn Ensemble and the Bay Brass. The audience will be invited to sing along to familiar carols.

Tickets cost from \$12 to \$30 for adults, and \$12 to \$18 for seniors and children under 12.

For information or tickets, call 510-893-9853.

See BRIEFS, Page A6

ECHS student drums up national attention

Carlin Muccular
is named
nation's best
amateur drummer
for 1999

By Kate Darby Rauch

RICHMOND — When he was just a little tyke back in kindergarten days, Carlin Muccular liked to hang around the drum set at church, listening to the rat-tat-rat, grabbing the sticks and banging around.

It was a kid thing, explained the tall, lean Muccular, 15.

"I think it was the noise," Carlin said. "When you go to church you see all the kids around the drums. They're attracted to the drum sets."

But this particular kid never outgrew his thing for drums. In fact, Carlin's interest in and passion for drumming grew with him through the years.

He was just named 1999's best amateur drummer in the nation by Guitar Center, the nationwide chain of music stores that runs the popular annual contest. Carlin beat 2,000 other drummers.

"I'm going to have to practice harder to keep up the title and live up to the hype," said the El Cerrito High School 10th-grader, who acts almost shy about the award.

"I'm just a regular person who plays the drums and happened to win a contest," he said.

Carlin may be a regular person, but he's also a driven one. Some teen-agers are obsessed with Pokémon, skateboarding or rapping; Carlin gushes drums. A drum set takes up most of his bedroom, which has walls adorned with drumming posters and paraphernalia. He won the drum set in a semifinal round of the contest.

Carlin, who has never formally studied music, said he feels most at home playing funk, fusion and jazz, but enjoys all music. His idols are drummers Dennis Chambers, Vinnie Colaiuta, Tony Williams and Dave Weckl.

Carlin practices every day but Sunday, he said, when he shifts into performance mode at his church, New Life Christian Assembly on 16th Street in Richmond. Drumming in the church band is his favorite musical workout, he said. He also drums in the El Cerrito High jazz and symphonic bands.

"If you're playing with some re-



CARLIN MUCCULAR plays on the \$9,000 drum set he won as Drummer of the Year in a Guitar Center contest.

He was just named 1999's best amateur drummer in the nation by Guitar Center, the nationwide chain of music stores that runs the popular annual contest. Carlin beat 2,000 other drummers.

ally good musicians and you're feeling the music all together, you just feel this thing inside," he said, pointing to his gut.

Carlin's mom, Beverly Muccular, said she bought her son his first toy drum set when he was about 6 years old, after seeing his interest in church. The family is musical. She and Carlin's sister, Nekisha, sing. His dad, Gary Muccular, a roofer for West Contra Costa schools, is lead guitarist in the church band, playing beside his son.

Beverly Muccular said she and her

husband encourage Carlin, but don't push him. While other parents might shudder to have an eagerly practicing drummer — and drum set — in the house, the Mucculars love it.

"It doesn't bother me, it's a joy," she said. Another drummer lives in the house next door, near Carlin's room, so complaints about noise have been nil, she added.

Carlin won his title Dec. 4 in a drum-off held at the House of Blues in Hollywood. To reach that point he first won local and regional competitions, drumming solo sets in front of

judges, peers and audience members.

This isn't the first time he has entered the Guitar Center event. He has competed in the same championship three times, losing in the regional competition, then getting back on the drum seat.

"I practiced harder and harder and harder, then came back this year and won," Carlin said.

In addition to the glitz of the title, he won a \$9,000 drum set, \$1,000, a Yamaha motorcycle — which the family plans to sell to help pay for his college education — and round-trip air tickets for two to anywhere in the country.

Carlin's dream is to go to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and eventually, he said, make it into the big-time musical spotlight. If that plan doesn't work, computer programming sounds OK, he said.

Meanwhile, all he really wants to do is keep drumming.

"Feeling free, letting it flow," he said.

Is this your idea of fun?



We didn't think so.

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Remarks on becoming president of the WCCUSD School Board

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, I had the good fortune to be elected president of the WCCUSD School Board. What follows are the remarks I made at that meeting. My requests for help and suggestions are not empty ones. My premise has always been that we all have the power together to create the schools our children deserve and need. Working together, we can make it happen—send me your suggestions and ideas!

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome my new board colleagues Pat Player and George Harris to the school board. To say that I am excited would be an understatement. I am thrilled at the possibility of what this new board, all five of us together, can accomplish.

To all of my colleagues, thank you very much for the trust you have vested in me by electing me president. As you know, aside from regulatory duties proscribed by our by-laws, policies, and other regulations, our office of president is that of a peer and I will certainly always treat it as such.

Nevertheless, I would like to take just a moment to share with you the philosophy with which I will approach this office.

Those who know me well know of my activist nature. That impulse has not been dulled by my first two years on the board. It has been sharpened.

I have come to realize a new meaning to the word "campaign." Campaigning is not something we do in the few months before November or when a bond measure is on the ballot.

The campaign to turn around this school district is not a 9-to-5 job.

Rather, as Webster said, it is the "active and systematic pursuit of a higher ideal."

What the most recent November elections showed us is that this board has a clear mandate.

That mandate is to unite and show strong, clear leadership for this school district.

Together, we are on a full-time campaign for the children and youth of West County.

As we take a brief look back at our most recent history we have some real building blocks to work with.

First and foremost, we have a wonderful new superintendent.

There is no backing away from the reality that there is a great degree of administrative inertia in our school district. You can live with that, as some superintendents have done, or you can try and run over it like, Walter Marks did.

There is a third way—build the solid foundation for a high performance, accountable school district which is what Dr. Johnston is doing and I intend to support her all the way. She has articulated four clear goals for this school year in the areas of attendance, behavior, achievement and safety. She has convened with the board an excellent strategic planning team.

Second, we must deliver on the promise of Measure E, especially the new Richmond middle school, and continue to closely monitor the progress of the Hercules Middle/High School. These projects not only will bring tangible benefits to thousands of students, but they symbolize, in many ways, the potential renaissance of this district.

We also have tremendous challenges.

Too often, the needs of our children and youth, our students, are not our upper most priority.

Our culture for the most part is still closed. We have to realize that parent and community involvement is not something else we do; it must be fundamental to everything we do. We have made strides. We are working to develop our site councils and we look forward to the launch early next year of the Partnership Council, a network of site councils working to support each other. The Citizens Advisory Commission on School Facilities has made important contributions to the Measure E planning and oversight process.

I would especially like to thank Dr. Woody Snodgrass for the tremendous service he has shown this commission over the last two years as chairperson. As we rotate chairpersons, I would like to announce tonight the appointment of

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

John Cruger Hansen as the new chairperson of the commission. I hope Woody will continue as a member of the commission and mentor John in this new role.

Other important initiatives are building around us. At our next meeting we will hear a presentation from the Alliance for Public Education about their ongoing work building a broad coalition of support for public education in West County.

Even though it feels like we just concluded negotiations with our employees' bargaining units, we cannot ignore our personnel crisis.

New creative thinking is needed on how we bargain and more importantly how we allocate resources. Our upcoming budget process needs to be informed by rigorous fiscal analysis. "A Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom," "Qualified Principal and Staff at Every School," and "Qualified Administrators running Every Program" must be more than election clichés. They must be part of this board's full time campaign.

Special funds be they Title I or Class Size Reduction must be invested wisely and aggressively. With the evaluation presented on Nov. 17 as a guide, let's admit as grownups that we need to make big changes and make them. It is not too soon for the children we are serving with these funds.

As we work to invest all funds available to us as wisely as possible, we must continue to work for reinvestment of our district's debt and the retention of all of our current ADA funds. Simply put, our children, our students, deserve the same amount of dollars invested in their education as their peers in other districts. Anything less is a crime.

We are nowhere near done fixing our crumbling school facilities.

I will ask the superintendent to agendize for this board a resolution endorsing proposition 26 on the March ballot. The "Fix our Schools Initiative" lowers the threshold for passage of school bonds to 50 percent plus one.

Whether Proposition 26 wins or loses in March, we must continue the hard planning work that will lead to the placement and passage of a comprehensive school bond on the November 2000 ballot.

A word on meeting process.

I would like to look at important ways we can change how we conduct our meetings. To start, a change of venue. The hospitality of Richmond High School has been fantastic but our values are not served by a room where the board is located so far from the public. I will also be discussing with the superintendent other ideas and will be bringing these forward to the board for discussion and action. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite board members and the public to submit suggestions on ways we can improve these meetings.

Friends, it is no secret that our meetings have not always been pleasant in recent times. We may disagree on small or large things but let's always remember our common commitment to this larger thing that I call the "campaign."

Let's make these meetings on the first and third Wednesdays and whenever we come together times we look forward to because we know we are going to make a difference.

The campaign engine is at this table and in this room. Let's get it up to speed!

Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your e-mail address? Send the message "Subscribe" to pakglen@aol.com. Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted. Back issues of West County School Watch can be found on the West County School Watch Web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty>.

For special donations or any other program information contact the Marine Corps Reserve at 814-1600, or Officer David Belman at the Albany Police Department 525-7300, ext. 823.

Recommendation on an EC financial advisory panel appears close

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—The Services for the 21st Century Committee of the Whole continues to discuss the idea of recommending a Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) to analyze and make fiscal policy recommendations to the City Council. At last week's meeting, attended by more than 20 people, the question did not seem to be if such a committee would be recommended, but how it would be constituted.

A draft of the considered recommendation is still being developed by Financial Review Team Chairman Steve Magyary. An initial proposal put to the Committee of the Whole by Magyary last October suggested the FAC have five members, with each council member appointing one person.

"The FAC will advise council on

The number of people to sit on the FAC was not set, but, at least according to those who voiced an opinion at the meeting, a small-numbered group seemed to be favored.

matters directly involving or relating to the fiscal status of the city," the proposal stated.

"I envision it as a group that would look at financial matters" in much the same way the Financial Review Team currently reviews civic finances, Magyary said last week. "The numerical size, primarily, and looking at long-term trends," he added.

At last week's meeting, some people advocated an open com-

mittee, with membership open to most anyone who went through the application process. Others pushed for the plan where each City Council member would choose a person to be on the FAC. The number of people to sit on the FAC was not set, but, at least according to those who voiced an opinion at the meeting, a small-numbered group seemed to be favored.

Committee member Peter Loubal agreed that each City Council mem-

ber could recommend to the committee, but that it is important that it be an "open" body. He said it would be "a body like other committees where the nomination is high up on a district level, minute periods of oral testimony from the public, who can go and vent their rage otherwise they do what they want to be heard and treated as the FAC. "I see, maybe, more formalized versions of what we have now here in the City of the Whole," Loubal added.

No decisions were made concerning the matter. The committee will continue its discussion and may recommend a FAC at its next meeting, if that meeting is not because of the holidays.

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Needy

FROM PAGE A1

ing your help in giving needy kids a happy start to the new millennium. The following locations in Albany are hosting collection barrels for new unwrapped toys for this year.

Albany Police Department, Albany Fire Department, Albany City Hall, Albany Community Center, Al-

bany Ford/Subaru, Alta Bates Medical Center, Bank of America, World Savings Bank, Mary & Joe's Sporting Goods, Berkeley City Club at 2315 Durant Ave., and Norge Cleaners, and Solano Ave. Associates at 1226 Solano Ave.

For special donations or any other program information contact the Marine Corps Reserve at 814-1600, or Officer David Belman at the Albany Police Department 525-7300, ext. 823.

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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

How the Grinch Stole Education

By Betty Buginas

all the folks in West County, the tall and the small

We'll work close together so he can't ignore it, we'll call, write and fax to say that we're for it

We'll write! Any we'll write! And we'll write, write, write, write! and the more the Grinch reads maybe he'll see the light!

"Why, for eight whole years they've put up with it now! I must stop being such a Grinch, but how?"

Then he got an idea! An overdue idea! The Grinch got a wonderful, overdue idea!

"I know just what to do!" The Grinch said just in time. And he made a quick Santa Claus suit that looked fine.

He loosened his fist, and decided to put children first, so as governor we wouldn't remember him as worst.

He still worried what would look to the public best, so instead of "forgive" he said he'd reinvest.

And while he was in the true holiday spirit, he saw if you have an absence and don't clear it

Or mom or dad forgets to put down the date, an \$ 8.6 million fine is a bit hard to take.

So he stopped by the controllers and said with rare sense, "I really can't believe you guys're that dense."

I know where to find money, I know just what to do

Let's take the tests and incentives that reward just a few.

And let's stuff them up the fireplace flue, the test sellers, they'll all cry boo hoo."

But we can bring back the supplies, seal the roof in a cinch. And maybe, just maybe, kids won't think Gray's the Grinch.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A different role for CCCT's Flynn

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce column in the Dec. 3 issue of The Journal made mention of "Harvey" at the Contra Costa Civic Theater, our first production for 2000 opening Jan. 21 and running through Feb. 26.

The article also stated most flatteringly that I would be playing the lead, as indeed I have in past productions of this show.

However, I must report that my career has reached what we might call a "mature" stage and the part of Elwood P. Dowd calls for a somewhat younger fellow.

Always welcoming new actors to our stage, CCCT has cast Jim Colgan as Mr. Dowd with Annie Perlin, Danielle Levin, Steven Klems and Sidney Burrows Jr. joining veterans performers Dory Ehrlich, Maria Fraser, Todd Miller, Bob Knoch and Holly Below in this production.

And because, as the ancient theatre aphorism states, "there are no small parts, only small actors" I'm delighted to be making a small appearance in this show as well.

The theatre continues to be grateful to The Journal for its coverage of our activities, although we miss the presence of reviewer Phyllis Lyon.

Louis Flynn
artistic director
Contra Costa Civic Theatre

Albany Hill group needs your support

If you remember when and why you wanted to Save Albany Hill—remember again! The Save Albany Hill Trust Fund, opened in

June 1992, is once again making a request for funds to carry out our visions: to preserve remaining open space on the hill, to fund local stewardship projects and to initiate public education about the cultural, historical and natural diversity and significance of this Emerald Island.

Activities we have undertaken since our opening in 1992 include:

Education

Symposium: "Stewardship of Albany Hill" at the Albany Middle School, including Monarch scientist John Lane, anthropologist George Cole, environmental artists Judith K. Friedman and Carole Fitzgerald, landscape architect Gary Mason, grassroots organizers John Steer, Cynthia Hall, and Lisa Stampfli-Torme.

Lecture: "Gone to the Birds," by Dr. Richard Biedleman, biologist and author of the winter bird population survey on Albany Hill. Lecture funded by Soroptimist International of Albany, Inc.

Lecture: "Monarch Migration—a Fragile Trek," by John Lane, Monarch scientist, at the Edith Stone Room, Albany Community Center.

Lecture: "Earth Day—Importance of Local Stewardship Efforts," at UC-Berkeley by Dr. Peter Raven, internationally renowned botanist and conservationist.

Events

"Albany Hill Celebration" at Gathering Tribes Gallery on Solano Avenue featuring watercolors by Carole Fitzgerald, storytelling by Malcolm Margolin, author and publisher of Heyday Books, creed workshop by Planet Drum and Wolfe-Mason Landscape Architects, creek poetry by John Steere of East Bay Citizens for Creek Restoration.

Grants

In 1994 and 1995 we received \$9,250 from the California ReLeaf/Urban Forestry grants. The grants funded specific tree care projects including the removal of 19 eucalyptus trees invading the oak woodland. Volunteers from the Friends of Albany Hill matched the grant funds with sweat equity under the guidance of botanist Dr. Barbara Erter, of UC-Berkeley, Robert Langston, retired lepidopterist, and Carole Fitzgerald project manager.

Land purchase

In 1995 we requested city wide help in raising funds to purchase remaining privately owned open space. The city council responded by proposing a special assessment district which the citizens subsequently approved by vote. Approximately five and a half acres have been subsequently purchased by the city of Albany.

Restoration

Friends of Albany Hill continues the monthly restoration activities indicated in the Albany Hill Master Plan under the guidance of Dr. Barbara Erter and Robert Langston.

Through a contribution from a Friend of Albany Hill, an \$8,000 grant will be awarded to Noah Booker of Shelterbelt Builders, Inc. over the next two years. This Grasslands Project will restore native bunchgrasses and wildflowers to the eastern and northern meadows. Seasonal workshops will be held to teach native plant identification, seed collection and plant propagation.

Erter, botanist at the University of California, illuminates one aspect of the need for stewardship to preserve Albany Hill's natural diversity.

See LETTERS, Page A6

Your letters are always welcome.

Mail letters to P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, CA 94530; e-mail them to journal@cc-nj.com or fax them to 415-644-1735.

A chance to hear tomorrow's classical music virtuosos today

YOUNG VIRTUOSOS IN CONCERT

Time: Jan. 7, at 8 p.m.

Where: AHS Little Theater, 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany

Tickets: \$3 students, \$5 adults

Details: Joan Sextro, 559-6550, ext. 6588

every Wednesday during lunch in Room 22.

Club members take music appreciation to a new level by actually performing the classical masterpieces for fun. From Beethoven to Bach, they can play it all.

During the weekly meetings, students informally showcase their skills on the keyboard and pause only to take bites of their sandwiches.

Although their audiences have only been other club members to

date, very soon that will no longer be the case.

Come Friday Jan. 7, it is Zhang's hope that everyone will know about the Classical Music Club after their first benefit concert appropriately called "Young Virtuosos in Concert."

As with other campus clubs, the Classical Music Club holds fundraisers for field trips. Although they will be selling candy to partially pay for their \$30 tickets to see the opera "La Boheme" in San Francisco, club members hope their first public concert will raise enough money for future field trips to professional performances.

Jan. 7 promises to be a night of beautiful music with student performances on the piano, violin, clarinet and trumpet.

Ticket prices are \$3 for students and children, \$5 for adults. Tickets will be sold at the door, but pre-paid tickets can also be purchased on campus from club members.

One of the highlights of the

evening is expected to be a four-hand arrangement of a Hungarian dance by Johannes Brahms. According to Zhang, most of the performances will be duets in order to let the musicians work together, some for the first time.

"Many of them have performed solo at their own recitals but not many have had opportunity to work with others," Zhang explains.

A few AHS teachers have also agreed to lend their musical talent to an otherwise student-run production.

Choir director Joan Sextro plans to sing an aria while AP physics teacher Rich Lohman has prepared a piece on the flute.

The Classical Music Club not only disproves the stereotype of head-banging teens but also gives students a creative outlet during school hours.

Like her musically blessed peers, 17-year-old Zhang takes private lessons to hone her skills. She has played the piano for 13 years and knows the drill well. For her

sweet 16th birthday, Zhang didn't get a set of car keys from her parents like some of her classmates. Instead, she got something far more valuable to her than a new set of wheels.

"I had to choose between a car and a grand piano," she says candidly. To most teens, such a choice is unfathomable because most would go for the car in a second. But for Zhang, making the decision was easy.

"Piano has been my passion," Zhang explains. "I've worked really hard for it. Besides, I've always wanted a grand piano."

Senior Scott Kagawa plays the trumpet in the AHS Concert Band but also juggles membership in three other music organizations: Oakland's Youth Orchestra, the Berkeley-based Young People's Symphony Orchestra and Contra Costa's Winds Across The Bay. It is not uncommon for rehearsals or concerts to overlap but somehow he manages the load. Of joining the Classical Music Club, Kagawa says,

Objects in mirror are closer than they appear

By Amy Chen

"Why not? It's a chance to play."

Like Kagawa, junior Quen Cheng is another student who performs with outside music groups to compensate for what AHS does not offer. He holds his own against some of the Bay Area's most talented violinists in the prestigious San Francisco Youth Symphony Orchestra.

"These students are not a part of what usually gets seen," says club advisor and AHS choral director Joan Sextro. "They work awfully hard and are very talented. It's a part of Albany High School that we need to celebrate."

If Mozart or Beethoven could see the Classical Music Club in action, I think they would agree.

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH

EDITOR • CHRIS TREADWAY

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

A Publication of Hills Newspapers, Inc.
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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

VIEWPOINT

Bartke's offers parting remarks on leaving council

The following is the farewell speech of retiring City Councilwoman Jane Bartke:

First, I wish to thank the citizens of El Cerrito for allowing me to represent them for the past eight years. I have done my best to represent your concerns as a member of the City Council, and also at county committees, regional and state bodies. I appreciated your trust in my ability to ably represent you.

Accomplishments:

I reflected back on all that has happened in the eight years that I was honored to serve you as a council member. There are many achievements that I could enumerate, like the Ohlone Greenway, Poinsett Park rehab, the General Plan update, our partnership with the school district, community policing, etc. But five achievements stand out in my mind.

The first achievement is the development of a 10 percent reserve fund in the early years of my term. Many of you will recall that when Councilman LaForce and I assumed office, the city ended the 1991-1992 fiscal year with less than \$5,000 in the city treasury.

With weekly budget hearings, and the cooperation of all council members, we were able to balance the budget and begin to build a reserve fund. This entailed a re-evaluation of all city departments and staffing positions. Many cuts were made and some staffing positions were declared permanently vacant.

It is to our credit that we now have a surplus in the reserve fund and future councils can decide how to spend current income without worrying about emergency needs.

Second, at the same time, I worked to institute and pass council policies to assure good financial practices. Some of these policies have been the previously men-

tioned reserve fund, the development of an equipment reserve fund, and the use of "one-time money" for one-time costs, i.e. ADA compliance with curb cuts, etc.

These policies have helped to maintain the health of our city and the quality of life so important to many citizens. The result of these instituted policies has been to assure lower costs and interest rates for any future bonds that may be passed at the polls by the voters.

Third, I am very proud that we were able to complete Fire Station 72 on the Arlington. This station is crucial for the maintenance of our Joint Powers Agreements with both Richmond and Kensington. By using the fiscal policies already developed and in place, we were able to direct the money from Prop. 172, (that the state mandated could only be used for public safety), and combine it with state earthquake money to build a new fire station that will serve us for many years.

Fourth, the El Cerrito Plaza has always been a concern for all of us who live in El Cerrito. It has been a very frustrating eight years of attempting to get the owners to upgrade and expand, and just when we thought they were all going to work together in 1996, one of the major owners closed down. When it appeared the remaining owners were not going to develop our "jewel in the rough" we requested proposals and chose a developer we felt had the credentials to do the job. I was very disappointed when that project also fell through. I am pleased that the present owners are committed and proceeding ahead. We should see construction this spring. I believe everyone recognizes that the present delays are beyond any of our controls but were necessitated by Albertson's legal buyout of Lucky's.

I for one am looking forward to

the demolition of the Emporium building and the beginning of the new construction. I am pleased that the solution to the problem of the Plaza happened during my term of office.

Fifth, I believe that I was able to establish and expand lines of communication within the city. There is now greater citizen involvement within all aspects of the city. Part of that involvement is evident in the quantity of applications received for boards and commission vacancies. Now there are more good people interested in volunteering for their community than there are positions available.

I remember that eight years ago we all deplored the lack of interest by citizens in decisions we were making. It is good that we now hear from many. I only wish we could find a way to reach those segments of the community that are still not using their voice.

When I was first mayor in 1994, I instituted a biweekly mayor's column with Hills Publishing paper, The El Cerrito Journal. By using the paper as a vehicle to inform citizens of the many upcoming issues and meeting dates, there was a definite increase in citizen participation within the city.

At the beginning of my second term as mayor in 1998, I reinstituted the televising of the council meetings, and eliminated the 3-minute timer that had caused so many ill feelings within the community. Citizens now feel their ideas have more acceptance. Of course the flip side has been a definite increase in the length of the meetings! The days of the short one-hour meetings are long gone!

Those are the past five accomplishments I am proudest of: establishing the reserve fund; instituting fiscal policies; building Fire Station 72; a solution for the Plaza; and increasing citywide communications.

Future

But what of the future? I charge the new council to continue to work towards developing a secure financial base, so that the city budget is not at the whim of the state. Past councils have provided a beginning, but there is still much more to do. I charge the new council to prepare a long plan strategy for repair and maintenance of our aging infrastructure. A detailed, well-thought-out five- to 10-year plan is essential. Again, past councils provided a beginning, but it is a small step.

Civility

Last year when I served as your mayor, there had been discourse within the city. I asked all to be civil to each other. There was a conscious effort on the part of many citizens and organizations to do just that—to be civil to one another. I was very pleased that everyone worked hard to pull together for the good of El Cerrito. I now see many cracks in civility, with negative comments and personal attacks slowly returning. I am very disappointed. If we cannot be civil and show respect for each other, then we will not be able to work together to keep El Cerrito the jewel that it is. Please! Be adult! Keep negative comments out and constructive ideas in. As my mother always said, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." It is easier for all of us to listen and work with a person who has been civil to us, than with one who has publicly disparaged us.

Finally, I wish the new council the best for the future. It is a new millennium. Let's have a positive new beginning.

Again, I thank all of you for allowing me to serve and represent you for the past eight years.

It has been fun, but I am ready to retire!

■ The transit hub at Oakland City Center for transfer connections, 24 hours a day, with the extensive bus route network meeting there Downtown Oakland's Federal Building One bus stop near BART's West Oakland Station

Bus fare for the trip between downtown San Francisco and the Oakland airport is \$5 each way. For shorter transbay Line A trips (to either Oakland City Center, Amtrak or West Oakland), the fare is \$2.50 each way. For even shorter trips Line A trips only between East Bay bus stops, AC Transit's \$1.35 local fare will apply.

Advice sometimes easier to give than to receive

I got a lot of advice last week. Most of it had to do with the avoidance and treatment of—and I promise not to use these two words together again—cold sores.

People told me to get more sleep, not to sit in the sun or eat chocolate and salty foods. Others gave me the names of pills, creams, salves and enzymes that work for them. One woman swore that dabbing a little earwax on a you-know-what made it a non-event.

Some of the advice came from people I know, some from strangers. Except for the earwax, no one told me anything I didn't already know.

But I was grateful for every piece of advice I got. I even pretended that I was hearing everything for the first time and promised to try whatever was recommended. Getting all of that unsolicited advice made me feel good, connected, like I was part of a club. It makes me feel cared about and restores my faith in humanity. It's a way people have of trying to be helpful and watching out for each other.

People can't resist giving advice. There are advice columns, advice nurses and advice lines. Even the president has a staff of high-priced advisors.

But for the rest of us, advice is a way to share the experience and wisdom we've acquired by being in the world for a period of time. It doesn't require any degrees or special qualifications. It's just a way to engage with people.

I myself am a chronic advice giver. Friends don't have to ask for me to tell them what to serve at a party, what car to buy or where to get the best baguette. When it comes to strangers, I eavesdrop on conversations and butt in whenever I feel I have something to add.

"Get both," I advised a group of women sitting at the table next to me in a restaurant when I overheard them debating between the pear tart and the chocolate mouse cake. "They complement each other. So you'll do an extra few minutes on the Stairmaster tomorrow. Besides, how often do you go out to dinner with your friends?"

They ordered both and everyone felt good.

I'll given unsolicited advice to complete strangers about what movies to rent, which books to read and how to toilet train their



children. Once I gave a 10-minute dissertation on how the baby aisle of the supermarket about the relative merits of Huggies and Pampers. But advice-giving is a matter. To be effective, it must be delivered properly.

"You should wear more up," a friend once told me will really brighten up your face." This may have been advice but all I heard was have a dull face that needs side intervention. Now she said, "you have such a little eyeliner would brighten the color," I probably would have listened.

Then there's judgment advice like, "if you exercise, you'll lose weight and look better."

And there are subjects which unsolicited advice is never given like how to raise your children or how to train your dog more socially aware.

Sometimes advice is the way of giving criticism. It doesn't happen with strangers. They don't have an agenda. Advice is pure.

In supermarkets, advice everywhere. That's how I know how to pick out a ripe taloupe, what to do with a fennel, how to dispense my family won't know what they're eating and how to lose 10 pounds in 10 days come home with new new foods just because a stranger saw me staring at a play of fava beans.

Dressing rooms are especially fertile. I count on strangers to tell me what colors are right for me, what goes with what, whether a particular outfit is right for a certain occasion.

Usually the advice is given even when it's not. I still feel good about the connection made. Because after you talk about the spaghetti squash, spaghetti strap dress, you hear about other things. You hear a lot that way and get some able advice.

And the next time I hear know-what coming on, I'll give the earwax a try.

Briefs

FROM PAGE A3

Arts center presents free holiday festival

RICHMOND—The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts will present "Sharing the Spirit" on Saturday.

The center's free-annual holiday festival will be from noon to 4 p.m. at the center, 339 11th St.

Featured entertainment will include an excerpt from "The Nutcracker," a West African dance class,

Laotian music and dance, a Mexican posada, poetry, storytelling, face-painting, prizes and Santa. Refreshments will be sold.

For information, call 234-5624.

New 24-hour service from San Francisco to Oakland Airport

OAKLAND—AC Transit introduced a new express bus service Sunday to provide direct connections, without transfers, between Transbay Transit Terminal near San Francisco's Financial District and the Oakland airport 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Line A express bus service, designed primarily for business travelers and airport workers, is being scheduled to make the 40-minute trip between downtown San Francisco and the Oakland Airport once every 30 minutes from about 6 a.m. to midnight daily, every 60 minutes between midnight and 6 a.m.

En route between the two terminals, AC Transit's comfortable new Line A express coaches will make only six stops, serving:

- The Oakland Airport shops
- The Amtrak Station in Jack London Square
- Jack London Square at Broadway

Letters

FROM PAGE A5

Although from Interstate 80 there appears to be little more than eucalyptus and condominiums, Albany Hill and adjacent Cerrito Creek actually harbor a surprisingly diverse remnant of wild California that used to cover the fertile lands where now spread the cities of the East Bay.

At least 100 kinds of native trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses can be found, including two diminutive orchids and six ferns.

None of these plants are currently listed as rare or endangered species, but many are considered locally unusual or known from no other sites in the East Bay, and several other plants are nearly as uncommon. Wild buckwheat, while not unusual itself, is required by a rare butterfly.

Much of this diversity results from the existence of Albany Hill as an island of nature, the only significant remnant of wild California left in Albany. Where there was once a shifting mosaic of flower-filled grasslands, shrublands and tree-lined ribbons along streams, now spread the cities of Albany, El Cerrito, Berke-

ley, Richmond and Oakland. Albany Hill is further distinctive in being one of the only places in the East Bay where wooded slopes occur adjacent to waters of the bay, swept by winds blowing across the bay from the open ocean through the Golden Gate.

We need you to continue supporting our efforts: contribute financially, any amount; participate in a volunteer workshop; attend our educational events; pick up litter when visiting the hill; and allow wildflowers to go to seed.

For information, please call Carole Fitzgerald at 528-3236.

Carole Fitzgerald
board president
Save Albany Hill

Emergency preparedness information on Internet

You can watch an animation of a quake on the Hayward Fault, and learn how to prepare for emergencies by visiting the city of Berkeley Web site, www.ci.berkeley.ca.us.

Clicking on the triangular Fire, Earthquake and Y2K Emergency Preparedness icon on the left side of the page takes you to the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services page, which offers links under the headings fire and earthquake.

The fire link tells you how to prepare your house for minimum danger in case of one of Berkeley's repeated land fires, the largest of which occurred in 1923, 1970 and 1991.

The earthquake links include information from San Jose about minimizing quake damage, as well as suggestions on what to do in preparation for, and during and immediately after a quake.

The ABAG earthquake link takes you to maps showing the expected severity of ground motions in a future quake, as well as historic maps of motion in Berkeley during the San Francisco quake of 1906 and the 1989 Loma Prieta quake. In addition, the link called "On Shaky Ground" takes you to an animation of a quake on our Hayward Fault.

The information is easily accessed. Now let's use it.

Dick White,
Berkeley Fire Safety
Commission

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Good idea: Adopt a pet. Bad idea: Give one as a Christmas gift

What's the perfect Christmas gift for that animal lover on your shopping list? A new cat or dog, right? Wrong, say the experts—Liza Dexter of the Oakland SPCA and Nancy Frenley of the Berkeley Humane Society. Giving someone a pet is a bad idea at any time of year. But it's even worse at Christmas.

"Choosing a new pet is an intensely personal decision," says Dexter. "And it's a decision that lasts a lifetime—up to 20 years in some cases."

"No one should have that decision made for him, even by well-meaning friends," adds Frenley. "For one thing, the timing needs to be right, and only the person involved knows when he or she is ready to make the commitment."

But what if you know for sure that your friend is ready for a new pet? Even then, say Dexter and Frenley, don't choose it for him.

"There's still that tricky matter of chemistry," says Dexter. "A dog that seems perfect to one person might not appeal to another. You never know which pet is right for you until you meet the animal yourself, face-to-face."

And if the chemistry isn't right, it can be a disaster. Your friend will feel like he's stuck with a pet he really can't warm up to. And the poor animal will inevitably feel neglected.

So what would be an appropriate present for that animal lover on your list?

"How about a gift certificate for an adoption from your local shelter?" suggests Frenley. "That way you leave the choice in your friend's hands."

On the other hand, if you've decided to get a new pet for yourself, that's a whole different story. Now is a great time to adopt, because both Berkeley and Oakland have some especially cute cats and dogs at the moment.

"Just one bit of advice," says Frenley. "If you can manage it, don't introduce a new pet into your home on Christmas Day. The hubbub and commotion of Christmas can be frightening to a new animal. Besides, the few hours with you are crucial for your pet's socialization, so you need to be able to devote your full attention to him or her."

If you're looking for a new pet, either the Berkeley Humane Society or the Oakland SPCA is a best place to start.

For one thing, they're cheaper than anywhere else: Berkeley charges only \$38 for cats and \$50 for dogs, Oakland charges \$55 for both cats and dogs. And you



MARTIN
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get a lot of valuable freebies for your money, including free vaccinations, free spaying or neutering, and a host of other goodies.

Best of all, the animal will have been thoroughly checked out, both medically and behaviorally, so you won't end up with a lemon—which happens all too often when you buy from a pet store or a back yard breeder.

And if it's not convenient to go to the shelter, don't worry: The shelter will come to you.

Just stop by Oakland City Center tomorrow, where The Oakland SPCA will have a mobile unit set up right outside Max's Diner, with plenty of adorable animals available for adoption, right on the spot.

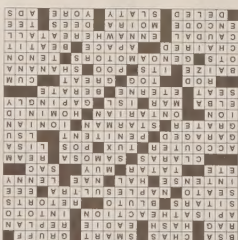
Or, if you're shopping on Solano Avenue, check out the storefront at 1226 Solano Ave., right next to Santa's Village. There you can watch kittens and puppies from the Berkeley Humane Society cavorting in the windows.

And if you should happen to fall in love with that doggy (or kitty) in the window, you can take him or her home with you. Oh, one more tip: Whether you're adopting a new pet or already have one, beware of the hidden dangers that lurk behind some traditional Christmas food and decorations.

"Many of them are dangerous to our pets," says Dexter. "That includes holly, mistletoe, poinsettias, chocolate, ribbons, twine, tinsel icicles, turkey bones—even the water in your Christmas tree holder!"

Speaking of turkeys, I just got a call from Pam Drake at the Grand Lake Neighborhood Center. Her Christmas wish is that a Good Samaritan will come forth and donate 10 turkeys, which will be given to needy families for Christmas. If you can help—or if you have other, non-perishable foodstuffs to donate—please give

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LOCAL CLINIC PARTICIPATING IN GLOBAL SCHIZOPHRENIA STUDY

Berkeley, July 28, 1999 - Berkeley Therapy Institute announced today that they have begun enrolling patients into a clinical trial of a compound being evaluated for the treatment of schizophrenia. The study, known as ILP 3004, is one of several in a worldwide development project known as the ReALiZe program.

The study at Berkeley Therapy Institute is part of a clinical development program to evaluate the efficacy and safety of an investigational drug in the treatment of patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. Schizophrenia is a devastating condition, which affects nearly one percent of the world's population; schizophrenia is the most common and disabling of all major mental illnesses.

Schizophrenia impairs patients' cognitive functions causing positive symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions, and negative symptoms such as social withdrawal. The disease typically strikes in late adolescence, with the onset of gross abnormalities in perception and an inability to feel or express pleasure. The profound incidence of suicide among schizophrenics is a well-documented public health problem.

Dr. Robert Dolgoff, primary investigator for this clinical trial at Berkeley Therapy Institute, notes that "despite impressive advances in psychiatry, we still do not have optimal treatment for schizophrenia. As many as 20% to 30% of patients do not respond to, or get unpleasant side effects with, the medications currently available. Therefore, research into new modes of treatment is needed for patients battling this disease."

Patients participating in this ReALiZe study will receive free study medication and will be closely monitored on a regular basis by mental health professionals. To be eligible for participation in the trial, patients must be between the ages of 18 and 65, diagnosed with schizophrenia and exhibiting symptoms of the disease. In addition, participants must meet all inclusion criteria specified in the study protocol.

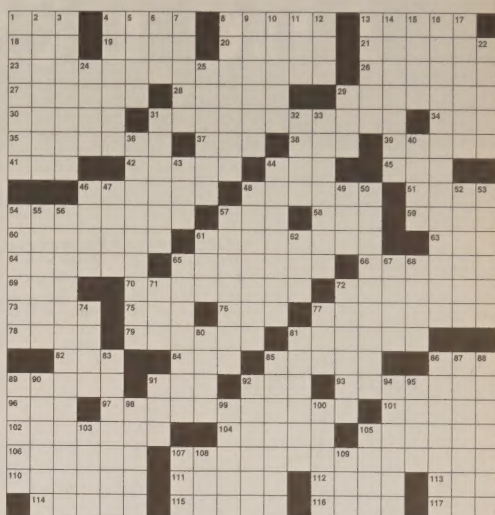
To obtain further information about this ReALiZe study, please contact the Clinical Trial Coordinator Leigh Pruneau, RN, Ph.D., at (510) 841-8484, ext. 136.

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TURIN THE COUNTRY

By RICHARD SILVESTRI / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	46 Barton and Bow	92 Cutesy add-on	12 Jack's inferior
1 Eagle org.	48 Filled Indian	93 Fifties revival	13 One of the L.A. Rams'
4 Chuck alternative	51 Do boring work	96 Some sports group	14 Lake cabins, often
8 Whiplike?	54 Outfit	97 Italy's leading auto manufacturer?	15 As far as
13 Surly	57 Wedding wear	101 Part of a joint	16 Top and bottom of an Italian room?
18 Make fun of	58 Like some terminals: Abbr.	102 Presided over	17 Make stout
19 Truck stop	59 One of the Simpsons	104 On the double	22 Hardly unconcerned: Var.
20 "— Was a Lady" (1932 sing)	60 Off the street	105 Hit the road	24 Stuff
21 Go back to the drawing board	61 Sorry sinner	106 At the tail	25 AAA
23 What an Italian wheeler-dealer wants?	63 Baton Rouge sch.	107 No particular place in Italy?	29 A.A.A.
64 Kitchen gadget	65 1984 Jeff Bridges film	110 Make hard to read	31 Suggested in
66 Sea off Sicily	69 It's charged	111 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"	32 One in
70 Peter Jennings or Shania Twain, by birth	72 Neanderthal man, for one	114 Struck out	33 Expose
73 Exile site of 1814	75 Scratch the surface of	115 Gray	36 Accommodations on an Italian ship?
76 Atlas abbr.	77 With the mouth wide open	116 Bygone era	40 British blueblood
78 Parliament prize	79 E'erlasting	117 Job listings, e.g.	43 Feather bed?
81 Dress down for Dustin Hoffman	82 Staff associate?	1 Number two wood	44 Greatest possible
84 Dress fancily, with "out"	85 Distinguished	2 Full of wisdom	46 Checked item
86 Diploma word	87 Billiard table cloth	3 Provoke	47 Bob's cousin
88 "— bien"	89 "— time"	4 Styx ferryman	48 Daily occurrence
91 "— time"		5 Millinery	49 Tom, to the piper
		6 Olive kin	50 Italian medical work?
		7 Yemen, in biblical times	52 Pounce upon
		8 Like Iran's government before the Ayatollah	53 — Thursday
		9 Barbie's maker	54 Big 12 team nickname
		10 "Later"	55 King of music
		11 Carnival locale	



56 Italian Thanksgiving serving?	72 Hound	88 Symbols of authority	99 The Beatles inspired it
57 Lachrymal	74 The gamut	89 Bowling game	100 Full of cattails
61 K-12 grp.	77 Thou	90 Within reach	103 Object of devotion
62 Browning	80 Parks of civil rights fame	91 Like Bach's "Magnificat"	105 Cold draft
65 Fugue feature	81 Pin	92 Warhol works	107 North Sea feeder
67 Fail to mention	83 Lower in quality	94 Army command	108 Name in Cambodian history
68 Opening time, maybe	85 Escaped	95 Spruce	109 Old Olds
71 N.B.A. Hall-of-Famer Holman	86 Choral composition	96 Spruce	
	87 Squeaky, maybe	98 Joined a conger line?	

her a call at 510-238-2301.

I also got a call from Judge Julie Conger reminding me that it's time to serenade Mr. Charles again.

Mr. Charles, of course, is the beloved Berkeley Waving Man, who gladdened the hearts of Berkeleys for 30 years, waving to them as they drove by his house on the way to work every morning.

Mr. Charles retired from waving in 1992, and since then his many friends and admirers have honored him every Yuletide by serenading him with Christmas (as well as Chanukah, Kwanzaa and Winter Solstice) carols.

This year's sing-along will take place this Sunday at 5 p.m., right outside his house at the corner of Oregon and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. If you live in Berkeley or North Oakland, please come join us. This year, as

a special treat, we'll be led in song by Kent Stewart, executive director of the Cacerado Performing Arts Camp. In his younger days, Stewart used to be Oski the Bear.

We'll supply the lyric sheets, but bring a candle if you can. It looks really cool in the dark.

Meanwhile, if you live in Albany, El Cerrito or Kensington, it's time to send a Christmas card to Mr. Shadi.

I'm talking about Sundar Shadi, the man who delighted generations of Kensingtonians, El Cerritos and Albanians—and many others all around the Bay Area—with the elaborate Christmas displays in front of his home on The Arlington every year.

Mr. Shadi retired a few years ago, too. And ever since then, we've been trying to let him know how much he means to us by sending him Christmas cards. The

address: Sundar Shadi, 944 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito, CA 94530. He made us happy for so many years, why not give a little bit back?

Finally, a word about the news that El Cerrito Plaza is about to become gentrified. As a once and future El Cerrito, who still has great affection for the "City of Homes," I applaud anything that will revive this crucially important community center.

But here's hoping that they'll remember to make room among all those upscale boutiques for the good ol' Saturday morning Farmers Market, which is one of the things that gives The City of Homes its small-town charm.

The development plan for Oakland's Grand Lake district is reserving a spot for that area's Farmers Market, and I see no reason why El Cerrito can't do the same.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039; write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619; or e-mail him at catman@california.com

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Soccer, skateboard facility at Berkeley-Albany border scores goals

By Marc Albert

BERKELEY— Mayor Shirley Dean will certainly need a new pair of shoes if she plans on fulfilling her year-old promise to be the first skateboarder to challenge the city's planned skateboard park, which will be built at Harrison and Fifth streets bordering Albany.

The long-held dream of a skateboard park and adjoining soccer fields in Berkeley's northwest crushed the net Tuesday when the City Council approved purchase of 6.4 acre site from the University of California for \$2.9 million.

"When I started this, my daughter was in elementary school," said project supporter Doug Fielding. "By the time these fields are playable, she'll be one year away from college. I'm just happy I haven't died of a heart at-

tack or old age."

After three years of study and hearings before about 30 city commissions, including a contentious campaign to rezone the lot to allow recreation on the former industrial parcel, the council approved purchase and granted waivers to a nonprofit group set up by Fielding to develop the site.

Construction will be supervised by the group and will take advantage of volunteer labor.

Construction of the fields and skate-park is expected to commence in March and hopefully be completed by August.

"We need a place where we can skate without getting tickets or being hassled," said 12-year-old King Middle School student Jesse Miller-Gordon, campaigning for the park. Gordon-Miller said his parents had to drive him to Alameda to use a skate-

park.

Some community activists like L.A. Wood campaigned against the park location arguing that locating the park between Berkeley's industrial core and Interstate 80 would subject field users to high levels of pollution. A report by Public Health Officer, Dr. Poki Namkung, found that a two-day 1997 study of air quality at the site did not include enough data, and was outdated because freeway traffic has increased by 20 percent since the study.

After the vote, Namkung said the findings should be put in perspective.

"Regardless of what the air quality is like down there, it is better than it is on any day in the whole Los Angeles Basin, and people obviously live down there, participate in sports and have children there. You have to put it in a real world context," he said.

Wood and others had earlier tried

to convince officials to relocate Berkeley's Public Works Corporation Yard to the Harrison Street site and have the fields built at the corp yard. The relocation, Wood said, would remove city truck traffic from a residential neighborhood, and put the field closer to homes, eliminating some vehicular trips. The idea was opposed because it would have cost more and taken longer to complete.

A consortium of West Berkeley manufacturers expressed some reservations about the fields.

"We do not want future complaints from playing field users about odors from industry to limit our ability to conduct lawful business," reads a letter from the 45-member Berkeley Association of Industrial Companies. "Furthermore, we do not want to limit the expansion of surrounding businesses once the area includes chil-

dren. Would existing business using hazardous materials be limited in the future by state law because of the presence of children in the area?"

Dean said the location, adjoining a field constructed by Fielding's group several years ago would create 14 acres of playing fields and therefore made sense.

"Let me be the first to say 'hurrah,'" Councilwoman Polly Armstrong said prior to the vote as girls in soccer uniforms and skateboard carrying boys cheered. "This is the university backing off from other projects so that parents don't have to take their kids to places like Fremont and Danville that are blessed with more open space. It's not Pleasantville folks, it's Berkeley. We live in an urban environment."

Included in the measure is funding for three air-quality monitoring

stations, an idea that a city council member took over.

"You really are a hero," said Polly. "Councilwoman Armstrong said, 'But we still have a park that belongs in West Berkeley.' The suggestion is to build a park and monitor it later. It makes sense to me. It's a monitoring firm."

Wyatt Miller, a 17-year-old Berkeley High student, said he had reservations made in the past without a park, skateboarders segregated to major streets.

"Four of my favorite places are subterranean parking lots. Skateboarders with others are an inhaled, but skateboarders hit by a car have to go to the hospital," Miller said.

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- Classes reconvene on Monday, Jan. 3
- Modified day on Wednesday, Jan. 5
- High School Community Dinner Meeting: Join us to discuss the topic: "Together, what can we do to help our students excel?" Date: Thurs, Jan 6, 2000, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 662 South 52nd St., Richmond. RSVP by Mon, Jan 3, 2000, 525-0234 or Rev. Otis Harris 234-4010. Dinner and childcare provided.
- PTSA meeting: All parents and students welcome. Refreshments. Wed., Jan 12, 7pm - ECHS Room 812.
- Two student holidays coming up: Mon. Jan 17 and Mon. Jan. 24

Tune in to KECG 88.1 FM, 9:55 - 10:05 a.m. Mon - Fri, for ECHS daily announcements. Visit the school's Website: <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/elcerrito/>

Ancient village could spike Fourth Street plans

By Marc Albert

Remains of an ancient Ohlone settlement dating back 5,700 years beneath what is now West Berkeley may bring an abrupt halt to plans for more retail and a multi-level parking structure at Fourth Street.

Berkeley's Landmarks Preservation Commission took up the idea of proclaiming part of the site a city landmark Monday.

After hearing public comment, the commission postponed action until at least Jan. 3, and will probably allow owners until February to present evidence that their portion of the site, the Spenger's parking lot, should be cleared for development.

Though no plans have been submitted to the planning department, developer David Ruegg said the site is "close to being leased." Ruegg said 14 borings at the site came up clean.

"There's nothing in that corner of the site," he said. The planned structure would extend 111 feet west of Fourth Street and 200 feet south of Hearst Avenue.

"What it comes down to is whether we save a 5,000-year-old artifact or have a Pottery Barn," said concerned resident Steve Finacom, who doubted the efficacy of borings. "As you know, I work for an institution in Berkeley that does a lot of development," he said referring to his job as a planner for UC-Berkeley.

Finacom said that after extensive studies and bores at the former site of Presentation High School came up clean, crews found the remains of a foundation, a 60-foot brick well, an oil tank and "an asbestos laden water heater," that caused unforeseen delays and ex-

penses.

Where exactly the shellmound begins and ends will likely be subject to lengthy debate.

A multi-story parking lot dubbed phase II is meant to alleviate the chronic parking problems of area merchants and address neighborhood complaints of parking spillover into the adjacent residential area. The garage would extend south to University Avenue.

"I don't think phase II will ever be built," Ruegg said saying the ball is in the city's court as to the future of financing that portion. "If it becomes feasible we'll do it."

The existence of the Berkeley shellmound has been kept under wraps for the last few decades by people in the know who feared the site would be disturbed by raiders seeking valuable artifacts. The shellmound may extend beyond its currently believed boundaries as far as south of University Avenue, north of Hearst Avenue and between Second and Fifth streets.

Speakers unanimously decried plans to build on the site.

"It's disgusting that an Ohlone cemetery is even considered property and could be developed," said Perry Matlock, a volunteer at the International Indian Treaty Council.

Attendees expressed outrage at neighboring Emeryville's approval of a retail and housing complex near Shellmound and Christie streets on the site of a former paint factory. The site, along Temescal creek contains a much larger, though not as old, native shellmound.

"It's a shame that you can walk the streets of west Berkeley and not realize that it was once a place where (native) people lived," said

author Malcolm M. No doubt that if the history of (Berkeley) Shellmound, Blake and Dorset is cherished and would have cleared a landmark preservation window into the past. The whole abuse and neglect should come to an end.

Aside from millions of clam and mussel shells left after centuries of habitation, the area is known for graves, tools and other remains of complex basketry. The remains of ancient dwellings.

According to Jaki M. recognized descendant of the people who called the area home, the Ohlone built around houses similar to reeds. Kehl said local rivals artifacts made by the in beauty, were woven enough to carry water and enough for cooking.

Stephanie Manning, searched the site, said the site were sold earlier century as garden fertilizers were used by the trucking Telegraph Avenue.

UC-Berkeley archeologists covered 92 human remains 1950s just a few blocks away to construction of a building and White Lumber Company.

Kehl said recent underground power lines uncovered 88 burials in the used to fill in the dirt. She hopes the sanctity of the mound is respected in the future.

Parcel

FROM PAGE A1

the money flow. "Parcel tax money is deposited into the general fund and tracked as income and expenditures," Hubbard said. "The funds are commingled in that they are kept in the same account. In a computer, they would be kept in the same directory but under a different file."

"The way the parcel tax is written leaves a lot of discretion for how it is used," said Hubbard, who attributes a recent decrease in district enrollment for grades K-5 for the budget shortage.

"In three years, we've had a decline of 100 students, which is the equivalent of close to half a million dollars" in state and federal Average Daily Attendance money, she said.

Hubbard also cited state restrictions on certain funds as another reason for the financial crunch that

could have resulted in discontinuing programs in Albany schools if the parcel tax had not passed in June.

"We would have had to cut programs," Hubbard said. "If it wasn't for the parcel tax, we wouldn't have added anything. The district is grateful to the community."

According to the parcel tax funding report, only 4.6 of 17.6 possible Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) were used to introduce new programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

AHS Music teacher Joan Sextro has an advanced chorale that is funded through Measure A monies. "They (parcel tax supporters) think they are going to get all new programs," Sextro said. "The reality is they don't get all new programs. What it's doing is preserving programs that might have been cut."

The remaining 13 FTEs are currently used for funding existing curriculum, such as a science, foreign language and mathematics course at

Albany High School.

"People think they're getting a lot of new programs," said AHS Principal Gloria Galindo. "There's been a big miscommunication. The parcel tax is actually funding programs that are already here. It sounds to me like the general public didn't know that when they voted. People are surprised."

Despite the school district's "positive certification" ranking, which means its budget will be approved by the state, some see the report as a gauge of how the district will fare financially in the coming years.

Hubbard sees the budget projection "as a checkpoint to see how we're doing," adding that the next budget report will be presented to the Board of Education in March.

Parcel tax supporter Janet Seltzer feels differently, saying, "I didn't pound the pavement and make 500 phone calls last year to get 4.6 FTEs. It's a disgrace and I'm personally embarrassed."

Santa

FROM PAGE A1

waited their turn for a place on Santa's lap. There was also a train running through Santa's Village and a green Santa Claus mailbox where kids could send a letter directly to Santa if the lap seemed too scary.

Fifteen-month-old Christine Braga of El Cerrito was there with mom, dad, brother and grandma.

Christine seemed intrigued by Santa, but hadn't yet worked up the courage to do more than stare and wave. Eight-year-old Julian Davlin of Richmond was there with mother Peggy and planned to ask Santa for a special skateboard. It was Julian's third year to visit Santa at the Plaza.

Kaitlin Moore of Richmond, who is 3-years-old, was there with mom and dad. Although she needed a little encouragement, Kaitlin sat on Santa's lap and she asked for a "dolly" for Christmas. When

pressed for specifics, Kaitlin told Santa "a pink one."

There are also coloring books and other activities for children at the village. Kids can have their picture taken with Santa for \$5 or a donation to the toy barrel just inside the village door. All proceeds and toys, Santa said, will go to needy children during the holiday season.

Santa said he's had a good time at the Plaza thus far this year. "It's pretty nice," he said. "I haven't had any criers."



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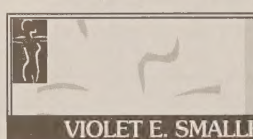
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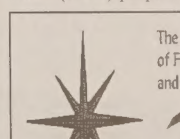
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Citizens for Responsible Government wants validation of some of its original claims and more than \$1 million in attorneys' fees.

Outis said the fees are critical, but not the most important thing. "There are important legal issues that remain," he said. "What rides on this is still whether there has been proper approval in Albany of card-room style gambling."

The group sued Albany in 1994 when the city asked voters to approve a card room at the track, as well as a development agreement and a zoning amendment for the project. The measure won by 186 votes, out of 6,300 votes cast.

Opponents warned of potential traffic and crime problems. Many were eyeing a day when the racetrack would close in favor of light development and open space, said citizens group board member John Shively.

The group sued Albany, claiming it should have conducted an environmental review of the plan before seeking voter approval. The suit also claimed the measure used biased language, such as noting that the card room would benefit the city by

creating jobs.

The case was initially tossed out by a Superior Court judge, but the appellate court ruled that it had merit. That ruling, said Shively, was a sign that the card room was an unlikely prospect. Outis and Zweben said they await court rulings on several legal issues.

"It may be fair and accurate to say the lawsuit still has viable life," said Zweben, who predicted it would be resolved in the next year. "It may also be fair to say no matter who wins, there might be an appeal."

The legal fees, if realized, would come from the pocket of London-based LadbrokeUSA, which last month sold the racetrack. Ladbroke is a co-defendant in the suit and is picking up Albany's legal tab, Zweben said.

Either way, the suit is considered a success by some. The card room was stalled, and in recent years the idea itself—offering poker and pai gow beside the ponies—has become a weaker hand.

At nearby Casino San Pablo, which Ladbroke owns but is planning to sell to a landless Sonoma County Indian tribe, gaming revenue

has decreased by about half in the past three years. The company has been hit hard by a ban on barroom smoking and recently saw a state bill vetoed that would have allowed it to operate the casino in addition to owning it.

Ladbroke retains the Albany card-room agreement that citizens voted on, Zweben said. Company officials did not return several calls seeking comment on whether they still want to build a card room at Golden Gate Fields, perhaps by leasing space from Stronach.

Before the sale, in July, Ladbroke Vice President and counsel John Ford said that, "We continue to battle that lawsuit to preserve the option to have the right and opportunity of establishing a card club there."

Yet the track's new owners say they have no legal or commercial interest in a card room, and Ladbroke appears to be receding from its short-lived bid for a foothold in California gaming.

"They still assert the right to build (a card club)," Outis said. "But I think that's just posturing. The economics just aren't there for it."

Honored

FROM PAGE A1

night. Richard said Jane was out on civic business an average of six nights a week during her council tenure.

Quoting from an article about modern politics in India, Richard Bartke told those at the reception: "Good leadership in the public sector should be cherished, because it is hard to do and in limited supply."

Richard Bartke also thanked La Force for his service to the city and praised La Force's "intellectual honesty" and hard work.

La Force and Bartke received praise from several people at the reception, including long-time El Cerritos Art Schroeder and Dan Freudenthal.

Freudenthal, a member of the city's Committee on Aging, praised the former council members and the city.

"We wish the two retirees the very best. We know they served us well," he said.

Pokorny also praised Bartke and La Force, as did Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia, who presented each with commendations of appreciation.

Gioia labeled La Force the "environmental conscience of El Cerrito," and praised Bartke's dedicated and able service on many regional government boards and commissions.

Damon, who had more than a few sharp words with La Force during their joint time on the City Council, attended the reception and warmly applauded both of his former colleagues.

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and sparkling champagne, and good cheer lubricated the reception.

Various department heads presented Bartke and La Force with small gifts, including T-shirts from the police and fire departments and cups engraved with the city seal.

Pokorny presented each retiree with a framed "Thank You" art work signed by city employees and council members.

Health & Fitness

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Dr. Jason Deitch

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By Jonathan Noble, M.D.

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Dr. Jonathan Noble

Fitness equipment as a gift for Christmas?

By Dr. Laura VanHarn

Hil it is me again, Laura VanHarn Ph.D. It's that time of year again and we are all thinking about what gifts to give our loved ones. The topic of my article this month is for those of you considering some type of fitness or exercise equipment to give.

Too many people who want to improve their health and physical conditioning assume that promises made in workout equipment advertising will provide the answer to their individual needs. In recent months the Federal Trade Commission has issued restraining orders or signed desist orders with equipment manufacturers who promise things that cannot be delivered.

The F.T.C. contends that "the equipment industry is rife with advertising that appeals to consumer hopes for 'bodies that genetics just won't provide'. The sales of fitness equipment has boomed in recent years fueled by purchases made by people wishing for a quick fix and a look that their genes will never allow."

A large percentage of fitness equipment that is purchased for the home gathers dust after the first few weeks, a reminder of good intentions but wasted money. Of the millions of dollars "in sales of 'health rider type' purchases since 1995, approximately 5% of them are actually being used today."

On the positive side, when fitness equipment is used correctly and consistently there are life long benefits. At the Physix Connection our clients are in a program which teaches them how to use health club and home fitness equipment properly.

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By all means, consult your exercise physiologist, your physician, or physical therapist before investing in unnecessary equipment or embarking on an exercise program that may be the complete opposite of what you need.

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exercise program for your loved ones or yourself which will put you on the road to good health.

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Eating smarter can lead to being smarter. What your children eat directly affects their ability to learn. The link has been widely recognized for some time through anecdotal evidence and, more recently, through controlled research studies.

This school year, why not ensure that your children are getting the nutrients they need to perform their best in the classroom? That doesn't mean that your kids have to give up the foods they love, like hamburgers, which rank among their very favorites. According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a nonprofit health-advocacy organization, vegetarian, or meatless burgers, are among "10 of the Best Children's Foods," while (beef) hamburgers are among "10 of the Worst Children's Foods."

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Monthly in the Health and Fitness Section of the Hills Newspapers: Montclair, Piedmont, Berkeley Voice, and The Journal

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After all, your world is our world, too. We're in this together.

HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Real Estate & Home

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

December 17, 1999

Section B

Weekly Sales Transactions put the market in perspective [B8]

Open Homes Get a jump on your competition with our handy listings [B10]

The great window frame-up

Molding can bring new life and extra attention to your house's glass panels

By Michael Walsh
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

WINDOWS ARE looking downright mainourished, thanks to the skimping on interior millwork that has become habitual among home builders and remodelers.

Windows have gotten bigger and better, with more complex designs and configurations that make them look good on the outside, but the trim that surrounds them on the inside of the house has all but disappeared. Window casings that were once 6 or 8 inches wide are now routinely 4 inches or even a measly 2½.

Yet, it is precisely the classic, hand-crafted look of fluted pilasters, rosette plinth blocks and dentil-molding head-

ers — elements once standard even in vintage bungalows and now so glaringly absent — that can make the difference between a room with architectural interest and one without.

Draperies and fabric valances can conceal niggling window trim, but they can't compensate for the lack of ornamental architectural detail that gives shape, dimension and stature to windows and rooms.

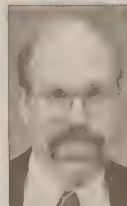
Fortunately, putting in what the builder left out or the last overzealous owner took out has never been easier. All the decorative elements required are readily available, relatively inexpen-

STYLE-MARK
URETHANE MILLWORK — pilasters on the sides, a raised panel below and pediment above — give a plain window at left a new view.

See WINDOWS, Page B9



Owning a Piece of History



Mark Wilson

"A good idea then and now, but Olmsted's vision would have to wait. His East Bay parks plan was filed and forgotten for the next several decades..."

East Bay parks set the stage for life, fiction

PART TWO OF FOUR PARTS

I just finished writing a murder mystery set in the Bay Area. "The Open House Murders" involves a Berkeley real estate agent who finds the body of a former client in the basement of a house he's about to hold open. The agent decides to dispose of it by employing the "Tilden Park so-

See PARKS, Page B9

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Suzanne Yamamoto

BY APPOINTMENT

Rockridge\$715,000
3/4 Sun. Great Views. Spacious yard, 5BD/3+BA, 3rd floor, office, family room.
Ruth Lockhart

Rockridge\$425,000
Ideally located near BART, shops & College Ave. 3BD/2BA (1 new), formal LR & DR, 2+ rms, 2 yr. old kitchen, garden & more.
Dell Orr

Mountain (Piedmont Side)\$575,000
Great location. Mostly level living contemp., on hillside - 3+BD/3BA. Rec room, South bay view, large garden. Storage!
Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

Montclair\$369,000
New on Market Adorable 3BD/2BA in sylvan setting. Wonderful kitchen, hardwood floors, skylites, freshly painted.
Evelyn Walker

Rockridge\$549,000
Contemporary and centrally located 3BD Piedmont hill. Lovely arch. details, French doors, hardwood floors, large yard.
Evelyn Walker

Glenview\$335,000
Near shops & EZ freeway access. Bungalow with formal living room & dining room. 3BD/1BA plus non conforming 2BD/1BA.
Dell Orr

Rockridge\$515,000
Spacious Contemporary 3 levels of comfortable living space 4+BD/3+BA. Soaring ceilings. Lots of storage.
Nancy Dickey

Laurel\$325,000
Tax Shelter. Modern 4-plex in great location. All large 2-BD units. Low maintenance grounds. Bargain price.
Fritz Hochfeller

Rockridge\$499,000
Community Time: 4+ acres of vacant land in Rockridge. This view lot has magnificent views of San Francisco, the bay & the bridges. Build your own dream home(s).
Joan Alford

Redwood Heights\$319,000
Charming in & out. Fabulous 3BD/1BA, gorgeous hardwood, huge rumpus rm great for office, plus workshop. Formal DR. A 10+!
Nader Davari

Rockridge\$449,000
Fully Remodeled. This 3+BD/2+BA home has been extensively remodeled so you can move right in! New kitchen, bathrooms & windows.
Michael Thompson

Upper Laurel\$279,900
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Nader Davari

Rockridge\$450,000
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David Eckert

Toler Heights\$239,000
Another of Oakland's great neighborhoods. 3+BD/2BA, formal dining room, hardwood floors, fireplace & bay views!
Ruth Lockhart

Rockridge\$117,500
Piedmont Ave. 1BD/1BA bright condo conveniently located. Move in condition.
Phyllis Wherry

Rose Garden\$117,500
Piedmont Ave. 1BD/1BA bright condo conveniently located. Move in condition.
Phyllis Wherry

Rockridge\$117,500
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READERS WRITE

Our Dec. 10 editorial ("Click unto neighbors as you would have them click unto you") seems to have struck a chord.

Cyrus Gordon of Whitmore Street in Oakland writes, "Perhaps I'm one of the few reluctant computer users (who) refuses to let the Internet control my life. I continue to do my shopping in stores of my choice and buy merchandise that I can see and feel first."

No one called or wrote to say we don't need the 'Net. But how pervasive should it be? What are society's costs and benefits?

Write the real estate editor, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland 94704 or jnyder1@cctimes.com.

PROFESSIONALS ON THE MOVE

Herber tapped for CSA title

Mary Ann Herber, associate with Alameda's Gallagher and Lindsey Realty, recently completed a comprehensive study given by the Society of Certified Senior Advisors to become a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA).

Passing a thorough exam and receiving the CSA designation means that Herber has taken the initiative to become a leader in understanding the key needs and issues concerning senior citizens.

The Society of Certified Senior Advisors is dedicated to providing for the continuing education needs of professional providers regarding



Herber



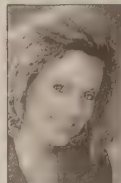
Bottano



Glass



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Bivins

new developments, practices and research concerning senior citizens.

As a certified Senior Advisor, Mary Ann will annually participate in continuing education provided by the Society. This will ensure that she will remain in the forefront of break-

through developments that impact the dynamics of the senior market.

Fine homes team turns out in force

Local real estate professionals were ably represented at a three-day international forum on luxury real estate and resort properties recently.

At the forum were Prudential's Marlene Daniels-Bottano, manager

of Prudential's luxury real estate offices in the East Bay, Glass; Julie Sabine.

According to Daniels-Bottano, the forum was a great opportunity for real estate professionals to learn the latest techniques in the field of luxury real estate sales representation to lure what are often referred to as "high net worth" (U.S.) and international clients.

To be considered for the "Real Estate Professionals' Real Estate Professionals' Move," send your resume to: Prudential Real Estate, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94704. E-mail: jnyder1@cctimes.com. Send as regular mail (no e-mails) to jnyder1@cctimes.com.

As in love, real estate matchmaking can land you in per

A friend suggested an idea: "Why don't you provide a real estate computer matching service? You could ask buyers questions about what they want, then match them up with houses."

Interesting idea. Most people thinking of buying a house know approximately where they want to live, how many bedrooms they need and how much they can afford. These are the basics.

When we first meet with buyers, we usually make up a list of houses that may fit their needs. But it isn't that simple. Just because there are three houses available in Albany for less than \$350,000 doesn't mean that any of them will appeal to our buyer. We need more information.

What if our buyer says he's partial to Spanish-style houses with tile roofs and that he needs a garage and a good sized yard plus an updated kitchen with a dishwasher? Can we find such a house? Will he want to buy the one we find?

When I was in my 20s, I signed up for one of the then new computer dating services. The service advertised that its questionnaire had been written by prominent psychologists. Matches would be based on atti-

True Experiences



By Tarpo and Talbert

tudes and ethics and personalities, not simply on whether two people liked to ski or read books.

I had fun answering the questions, things like, "If you and your best friend and your lover were in a sinking boat, whom would you move to save first?" I mailed in the questionnaire and fee and waited. I then began to receive phone calls from potential dates.

These men had at least one rather surprising thing in common: each had been trained as an engineer.

I didn't notice this coincidence at first. It wasn't until I talked to several men that it struck me.

After that I asked at the beginning

of each conversation, "What do you do for a living?" The answer always was, "I'm a structural engineer," or "My degree is in mechanical engineering."

Were engineers calling me because my questionnaire answers indicated something that fit with engineers? My preference for order and detail, for example? Or did the matchmakers match me with men whose characteristics, by someone's standards, complimented my own? I don't know.

I do know that matching mates and matching people with houses always involves unknowns. With buyers, we have found over and over again, there are unknowns for both us and for the buyer. No matter how thorough we have been in asking what the buyer wants, no matter how lengthy his answers, neither of us knows ahead of time what he will buy.

A client thought that buying a house close to where she works was paramount. But that was before she saw a little cottage far from her job that captured her heart.

Before she bought it, she did pause to consider the commute, but not for long. Her priorities were reordered because she had found

something that mattered more to her than she had understood would be true before it happened.

For almost everyone, choosing a house is in large part an emotional decision. The woman who bought the cottage probably would have turned it down if she had not been able to afford it or if it had been sliding down a hill.

But the primary reasons she chose the cottage had to do with magic. Something about the house spoke to her. Maybe it was the wooden bedroom floors, painted green, or the willow tree in the back yard. Maybe it was things she could point to, recognize, but maybe not. Often what people choose they cannot explain.

I don't even remember any of the engineers I met through the computer dating service, although later I married an engineer I met when he bought a house from me. I don't think his profession had much to do with my choice, although it probably factored in. We got to know one another and found we wanted to spend all our time together.

Which is what I think happens to house buyers. It's pretty hard to predict what someone will want before

seeing and knowing what it is - husbands and houses.

I've been thinking about the many buyers we've shown houses to, what they said they needed, what they ended up with. I can't think of anyone who purchased a house solely because it was the right size and located in the right place.

But even if computer matching won't work, it could still be fun. Maybe we could advertise that we'd make matches for a fee. We'd design a questionnaire, have people mail or fax them in. Then we'd send back to them a list of houses that may fit.

What kinds of questions would we ask? Besides the obvious ones involving size, cost and location, what else would allow us to zero in on where a particular buyer would find his own magic?

As I form sample questions, I realize that some interpretation of answers will be required, some decisions on our part about whom to match with what.

■ Do you enjoy cooking? Fine wines? Entertain often?

■ Do you sew, work on cars, have

a home office? How many children?

■ Do you garden, jog, use public transportation?

■ Is your furniture heirlooms, flea market, a kind artwork? Do you like rooms with sleek, clean or smaller, more homey rooms?

■ How many hours do you work each week? Are you considering putting your own stamp on a house?

I don't know where to go on and on. How about you? Are you a person who uses symbols? What would buyers use that?

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents specializing in single family homes. They also offer home consulting and coaching. You can be reached by e-mail at patanet@imnet.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.

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1220 DERBY—NEAR FRUITVALE BART STATION. Corner of E. 12th & Derby, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, includes 2 additional lots —\$250,000. Eddie Fagrey, 301-1010 pager 291-9401.

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\$1,100,000 1010 SHERMAN. Gold Coast Estate! Impressive 1902 home constructed by Cornelius and Brishout and designed by architect B.E. Remond. 3-1/2 baths, large dining room, huge finished attic. Au Pair quarters, finished basement, library and sun room three fireplaces, hardwood floors, leaded glass windows and circular stairway. Fred Christensen 814-4811

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\$65,000 1400 E. 15th ST. Commercial lot extending along side busy 14th Ave. Adjacent family home also for sale. Bev & George Williams 522-7173

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\$150,000 1464 9th ST. Two units with separate meters. Sold in redone, downstairs unfinished. Beautiful on certain details, secluded garden location. Kathy Hirsch 814-4706

\$155,000 625 MADISON #208. Great location, near BART station, bus. BART and 1/2 acre level 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with dining area and attached garage. Tere Lee 814-4840

\$165,000 1408 E. 15th ST. Two units, large 2 bedroom owners unit with high ceilings, and finished attic with 2+ rooms. Bev & George Williams 522-7173

\$179,000 245 PERKINS ST. #39. Large airy 2 bedroom, 2 bath, new carpet, new paint, new kitchen, laundry room down the hall, owner will clear pest report and give credit for cabinet repair. Kathy Hirsch 814-4706

\$379,000 2710 HARRISON ST. Fourplex! Spacious charming 1-1/2 bath units with formal dining rooms, hardwood floors & tile. Identical floor plans in all units. Good condition and location! Steve Cressey 814-4818

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What should dad, son know in house transaction?

By
Dian Hymer

"Make sure that you aren't overpaying for an atypical property..."

Lot utility can offset size appeal

When a buyer will pay for a home depends on many factors including market conditions, lot size, the size and condition of the property and the property location. The land that a residence sits on affects the property's value. Many people assume that the larger the lot, the more a buyer will pay for it. But when it comes to land, bigger is not always better. Lot utility can outweigh the importance of its size. For example, a lot on a large piece of property is steep might sell for less than a flatter lot that's on a flat lot. Home buyers often prefer properties that allow for easy indoor-outdoor living and provide level areas for children, pets and gardening. A lot provides none of this and creates a maintenance headache. Homes on sloping lots can sell for a premium, however, if there are compensating factors like a scenic setting or a magnificent view. A critical factor in lot valuation is the size and character of typical lots in the area. In a subdivision where the homes are on flat lots, the homes with the largest, usable yards usually command the highest prices. Homes that are located on lots that are smaller than what's typical for the area often sell for less.

The homeowner whose home was sold that was small for the neighborhood had a hard time selling even when she hired a decorator to stage the property inside and out. The lot was 1,500 square feet smaller than other lots in the neighborhood. Although the home was well-located and had considerable charm, the seller discounted its price because of its small lot and minimal yard. The importance of lot size depends on what prospective buyers want and need. Buyers with small lots usually want sizable level areas that are easy to get to from the house. Busy professionals with no time often prefer small yards or no yards because they require less maintenance.

Price range also plays a part. In higher price ranges, the concept of owning land becomes an issue, so buyers usually want bigger lots. In expensive neighborhoods, buyers often pay a premium price for a lot that's on a larger than average lot. A large mansion with a small lot — perhaps because the property was subdivided over the years — can be difficult to sell. Consider the resale potential of a property before you buy it. Ask your agent what buyers are typically looking for in your area. You may find homes with low maintenance and a sense of privacy are in the highest demand.

In this case, lot size is not that important. But a home that's on a subdivided lot may be difficult to sell if buyers perceive this to be a defect. Buying a property that has a defect is as long as it suits your needs. You realize that you may have to discount the price when you sell.

To make sure that you aren't overpaying for an atypical property, ask your agent to give you information on comparable properties with similar utility that have sold recently.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker/associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office. Author of "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," available in book stores or from Montclair Books: 800-722-6657.

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Q: My father and I do not require the full services of a real estate agent for marketing, open houses, negotiations, etc. Whom can we turn to as the most economical way to process a sale between us? We need help with the paperwork, escrow, title, etc., but this kind of sale doesn't require full services or full commissions.

Some experts say that there is no value reassessment (for tax purposes) in a sale of real estate between parent and child. Other experts say there is a reassessment. What's the bottom line in California? I will buy the home with a regular home loan. If my father sells me the house for under fair market value, say for \$200,000 with the home worth \$275,000, are there tax consequences because of the difference between the fair market value and the selling price? The property is a fixer-upper, and that is a factor in the cheaper selling price.

A: There are real estate brokers who will assist you in the transaction on an hourly fee basis or on a fee-for-services basis rather than for a commission. You can also retain a

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real estate attorney (generally at a higher hourly rate) to assist you. Some real estate brokers and attorneys have a minimum fee, generally a percentage of the value.

You can shop for help by phone or on the Web until you find the right person. (Ask family, friends, co-workers and others you trust, for a referral.) When a parent gives a property to a child as a gift, there is no reassessment for property-tax purposes. If your father sells you the home, however, the sale could trigger a reassessment. Contact your county tax

assessor's office for details.

The Internal Revenue Service could consider as a gift the difference between the true value and your sale price.

Anyone can "gift" any person cash or property up to \$10,000 every 12 months without a taxable consequence to either parties. Married parents can give as a gift a combined \$40,000 to a married child and his or her spouse, with no taxable consequences. When the value of the gifted property exceeds the allowable amounts, the giver has to file a gift tax return. Gift tax is paid on the excess, or the giver can elect to reduce his or her estate tax by the excess amount and not pay the gift tax. Contact a qualified tax adviser for details on the gift-tax issue.

— Sam J. Gilstrap,
enrolled agent/broker

A: Consider obtaining title insurance for insurance against unknown risks. Proposition 58 says transfers between a parent and child is free from property tax reassessment. Your county tax assessor has all the pertinent forms.

— Judi Souza, Escrow Expertise

A: You and your father will need to sign a real estate contract. There are other disclosure issues to consider. Some companies prevent agents from doing simple paperwork transactions. Other agents, independents or generally those from smaller companies have more flexibility. But there is more to a real estate transaction than preparing a sales contract, including representation, disclosures, inspections, escrow and other details. Real estate attorneys can help you with the contract.

— John Reyes,
RE/MAX Group South Bay

Rental trash bill dilemma

Q: Nine years ago I bought a small home in Arizona as an investment. My brother lives there, and I have no other involvement with the property. Apparently, the city passed an ordinance for garbage service with the charges going to the property owners.

My brother travels a lot and sometimes fails to pay the garbage

bill. When that happens, the city sues me in their local Small Claims Court. The city makes no effort to contact my brother. I can't afford to have these lawsuits on my credit record. The city should either contact my brother or file a lien against the property. Can they go after me? In theory they could get a judgment and then attach my bank account here in California. What can I do other than depositing money with them in advance?

A: Ask the city to send the bill to you. You are the property owner. When they bill you, pay the fees. Ask your brother to reimburse you for the costs.

— Jack Tereza, Brooktree Realty

Virtual Real Estate answers are neither legal advice nor professional counseling. Questions and answers are edited for clarity and space. Without the full content of a given problem, answers should be read as basic information. Consult a professional for your specific real estate needs.

New loans come with unemployment-insurance option

American home buyers and refinancers are about to be offered a type of mortgage they've never encountered before: a loan that comes with its own built-in unemployment insurance fund. Borrowers who take out one of the new financing packages are guaranteed up to six months' worth of their full monthly mortgage payments — principal, interest, taxes and other escrow items — should they become "involuntarily unemployed" anytime during the first three years of the loan term.

After three years, they can renew the coverage for extended periods. Payments flow from the insurance company to the lender, and the unemployed borrower is never recorded as having been late or in default.

The program — dubbed "Mortgage Guard" by the insurance companies that designed it — is intended to be a flexible, add-on option to virtually any type of home loan. Home builders, for instance, can offer it as an extra attraction at no direct cost to consumers. An individual home seller could offer it through a lender as an inducement to would-be buy-

Nation's Housing

By Kenneth R. Harney

ers. Mortgage lenders are likely to customize and integrate it into their own loan menus. One mortgage banker active in more than 30 states, for example, plans to introduce it before the end of December as the "Breathe Easy" mortgage, with a 1/8 percentage point higher note rate on the typical loan. The program is expected to be available in most states in the first half of 2000.

Why now?

Why launch a concept like this in the midst of the strongest economy and lowest unemployment rate in decades?

The sponsors of the plan, Cincinnati-based Great American Insurance Companies and Mortgage Payment Protection Inc. of Altamonte Springs, Fla., answer this way: Sure the national economy is hot, but mortgage defaults and foreclosures remain a market-by-market problem for lenders. A significant percentage of early de-

faults in home mortgages occur "because of corporate downsizings, mergers and acquisitions, sudden closures of plants and offices," says Teri Cooper of Mortgage Payment Protection.

The corporate consolidations of the late 1990s often hit like lightning — throwing hundreds of people out of jobs. "It can be devastating to homeowners faced with monthly mortgage bills," says Cooper.

As with any insurance, you've got to read the fine print carefully to see what the new unemployment protection covers — and doesn't. The insurance pays for up to six months of mortgage bills if you:

- Work for a salary or wages at least 30 hours a week, and have been doing so for at least three months before applying for coverage.

- Have no knowledge of "any impending involuntary unemployment at the time of loan closing." If your company has already warned you about upcoming layoffs, you won't qualify for loan payment insurance.

Some caveats

You won't qualify, either, if you're self-employed, work for a relative or

own 25 percent or more of the company that employs you. Nor do you qualify if you quit, go on strike, retire or lose your job because of a disability or "criminal conduct."

If you lose your job, you have to "file and qualify for state unemployment compensation." Payments only flow to your lender once you've been out of a job for 31 consecutive days.

The cost of the coverage? If you choose it as an option for yourself — as opposed to having a builder or property seller pay for it — the typical cost will be anywhere from 1/8 of a percentage point to 1/4 of a percentage point added onto the note rate.

For example, Pinnacle Financial Group of Orlando, Fla., plans to provide the insurance for 1/8 of a percent extra on top of its average \$150,000, 8 percent fixed-rate home loan. The premium will add an extra \$13 a month onto the basic mortgage bill. As home mortgage interest, the \$13 will be tax-deductible.

Is it worth it?

But is the coverage you get really worth even that size of a monthly addition? Scott Maxwell, a senior vice pres-

ident for residential mortgages for Atlanta-based SunTrust Bank, says borrowers "have to ask themselves — is there any chance whatsoever that I'm going to lose my job" in the next several years? "If the answer is no, don't get it. But if the answer is maybe, then the peace of mind the insurance gives you might be worth it."

Maxwell's formulation could be the right one for you. But here's another thought: If you did lose your job involuntarily, would you likely be able to find a replacement position with the income necessary to support your current mortgage after the six-month deadline?

Mortgage Guard is a six-month tourmiquet during the first three years. Without renewal at an additional premium, it offers no home-saving help beyond that — even though the original 1/8 or 1/4 percentage point premium can run for up to 30 years.

Kenneth R. Harney is a syndicated columnist. Write to him c/o the Washington Post Writers Group, 1150 15th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20071.



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All About Homes

By Schneider and Wilson

Prioritize holiday home fixes

With the holidays just around the corner, many of us are starting to think of getting our homes ready before putting up decorations and greeting guests. This may include new flooring or window coverings, updating the cabinets, a fresh coat of paint or just a thorough cleaning. The first things to consider are how much time you have and how much money you want to spend on your projects. And be realistic!

Start with the end in mind and work back. Set a project completion date. This will be the day that your home will be ready for the holidays. After you've set your deadline, you will need to determine what it is you really want to do. Now, is it reasonable to expect that your goals can be accomplished in the time limit you've set?

In today's column we will discuss the amount of time that will be needed and some of the options you have in preparing your house for the holidays. In future articles we will go into more depth in each area, with suggestions about what to look for when purchasing and installing some of these products.

Updating the cabinets will probably take the longest amount of time to complete. If you want to replace the cabinets, you can go to Home Depot, Yardbirds or a similar home improvement center and purchase off-the-shelf, ready to install cabinets and counter tops. Of course, these types of cabinets come in very limited sizes. Or you can order modular or semi-custom cabinets and allow two to four weeks for them to arrive after placing the order.

Once the cabinets have arrived and you've inspected them for damage, you will need to tear out the old cabinets, prepare the walls, floors and electrical service and install the new cabinets, counter tops and possibly appliances. You should allow one to two weeks to complete the installation.

As you can see, you could have as little as one week to as long as six weeks of time involved in this project. With time as a major consideration, another option to consider is refacing the cabinets rather than replacing. After you set an appointment with the refacing contractor, the refacing can be done in about two days and for less money than buying new cabinets. It is important to consider the quality of your existing cabinets before choosing refacing.

You really need to think seriously about updating your kitchen before the holidays. You could be dealing with a lot of time and mess than you want to at this busy time of year. This might be a good project for the first of the year.

New window coverings and carpets will probably be the next most time consuming project. If you know what you want, it will probably shorten the time involved. Ordering ready-made drapes or shades will be the quickest and easiest. If you have large or odd shaped windows, this may not even be an option. There are some types of blinds that you can order that will arrive in less than a week. Installation shouldn't take much more than a day or two.

There are many floor-covering companies that also have immediate access to carpet, vinyl or wood flooring. This may limit your choices but it may fit your time line. You will also need to allow one or two weeks to arrange for the installation, which usually takes a day to complete.

Depending on how involved you want to get, the painting and cleaning could take an equal amount of time. The biggest time factor in painting is the preparation. The better the wall surfaces are prepared the better the paint job will turn out.

And what can we say about cleaning? If you decide it is time to thoroughly clean the house—including washing the walls, stripping the floors, cleaning and organizing closets and drawers, and having the carpets cleaned—it may take you from now until the holidays to complete it all.

Now that you have an idea of how long it's going to take you to get your home prepared for the holidays, you can decide what it is you really want to tackle in the upcoming weeks.

Home maintenance cools down winter fuel bills

MOST HOME-MAINTENANCE projects will save money over time. But a few of them will produce an immediate and measurable return. Maintaining your home's energy envelope is one. The floors, walls, ceilings, exterior doors and windows of your home combine to make up its energy envelope. When it is properly maintained, your personal comfort level will increase. Finite control of heat and cold is achieved with insulation in walls, ceilings and floors and with infiltration control (sealing air leaks and making all exterior surfaces airtight).

If your home isn't well insulated, take care of it now. High winter fuel bills are on their way. Sealing gaps at windows and doors is an annual must-do task.

Weather-stripping comes in many of the following forms or in several combinations thereof: vinyl, rubber, metal, foam and wood.

Weather-stripping is easy

It doesn't take a workshop full of tools to install most types of weather-stripping. All you need to install most are a screwdriver, razor knife and possibly a hacksaw. Depending on usage and financial limitations you can select from several weather-stripping configurations: metal V-strip, vinyl V-strip, integral vinyl V-strip, adhesive-backed foam (for doors and windows that don't get much use), hollow rubber beading on a metal flange, interlocking metal (which should be professionally installed).

Metal V-strip weather-stripping is durable, long-lasting and easy to install. It comes with a pressure-sensitive adhesive backing that, except for cutting to length, has a tool-free installation. The V-strip is mounted on the doorframe at the location where it comes into contact with the face of the door when the door is in the closed position.



Morris & James Carey

The V-strip is flattened when the door is closed. The built-in spring tension that causes the V-shape closes the gap between the door and the frame, keeping air from passing through.

V-striping also is available in vinyl that is as good as the metal type. Vinyl V-striping also is available in a type that is built into the door frame. The weather-stripping snaps into a groove in the door-frame. Press to lock it in place—adhesive isn't needed.

Inexpensive foam

Adhesive-backed foam is installed in the same way and in the same location as V-style weather-stripping. Although adhesive-backed foam is inexpensive, it isn't durable. It probably won't last an entire winter if you install it on a frequently used door.

Interlocking-metal weather-stripping is the most expensive and the best. Small metal flashings are placed at the door and frame. When the door is closed the metal flashings interlock. Interlocking weather-stripping is usually only installed at doors and casement windows. Both door and frame must be notched with a router. The special tools and the associated tedious installation make interlocking metal a No-1 candidate for professional installation. Interlocking weather-stripping is installed around the perimeter of the door

—top, sides and bottom. A special threshold is installed that interlocks with the metal flashing at the bottom of the door.

With the other types of weather-stripping mentioned, a door shoe is used at the bottom of the door. Here, the shoe is adjusted to close snugly against the threshold. Sometimes rubber weather-stripping is mounted on the door shoe and other times on the threshold. We like it when the rubber is on the door bottom. Mounted on the threshold, it tends to wear out more quickly.

Check openings for leaks

Regardless of your choice of weather-stripping, check every opening to determine whether a problem exists. A lot of air passes through walls, ceilings and floors. There are easy ways to test for leaks: the candle or incense method, the wet finger method and the flashlight method.

Use these easy tests around light switches; electric plugs; drain pipes; water pipes; heat registers; thermostats; wall and ceiling light fixtures; smoke detectors; floor plugs; door bell chimes; doors and windows.

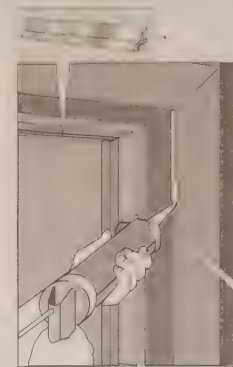
■ **The candle or incense method.** This is our favorite. It works every time. All you have to do is light a candle or some incense and hold it next to a suspect leak point. If a leak exists, the flame will flicker. On a calm day, turn on all of the exhaust fans in your home. The negative pressure created will draw air in through gaps causing flame and smoke to flicker.

■ **The wet finger method.** When air passes over water it causes the water to evaporate. Water cools as it evaporates. A wet finger will get cold when placed near a flow of air.

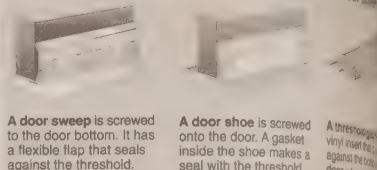
■ **The flashlight method.** The flashlight method is used only at night. You'll need a friend to help

Stopping air leaks

Weatherstripping seals openings in a house. It is applied around a window or door jamb or at its threshold. Installed, it forms a tight seal, creating a gasket to prevent air leakage and loss of costly energy dollars.



Improve seal at the threshold by installing a door shoe



A door sweep is screwed to the door bottom. It has a flexible flap that seals against the threshold.

A door shoe is screwed onto the door. A gasket inside the shoe makes a seal with the threshold.

A threshold gasket is a vinyl insert that seals against the door when it is closed.

—one person outside, the other inside. A light is shined onto exterior walls, windows and doors. The person on the other side of the wall looks for traces of light passing through. Where there's light, there's leaks.

Pittsburgh contractors Morris and

James O. Carey can be heard on Monday mornings on KSFO 950 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o Associated Press, 50 Rector Plaza, New York, NY 10006, or e-mail them at careybros@earthlink.net or careybros@earthlink.net. Their Web site is www.onthehouse.com.

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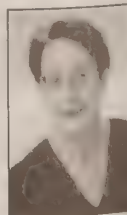
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New rules pair 'jumbo' loans with lower interest rate

By Dan Benson
JOURNAL SENTINEL

Mortgages of \$650,000 and up are called super-jumbo loans. The most talked about super-jumbo loan of 1999 is Bill and Hillary Clinton's mortgage deal to borrow \$1.36 million to buy a \$1.7 million house in Chappaqua, N.Y.

The main difference for the consumer, other than the dollar amounts involved, between jumbo and conforming loans is that jumbo mortgages usually carry higher interest rates — typically a 1/4 to 1/2 percentage point higher.

On Dec. 2, for instance, Bankrate.com, a lending industry Web site, said the national average rate for a 30-year fixed jumbo mort-

gage loan was 7.99 percent, compared with 7.67 percent for a conforming mortgage.

Each year, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac raise the conforming loan limit, based on the results of a survey conducted by the Federal Housing Finance Board. That federal agency polls U.S. lenders each month to determine the average value of single-family houses bought with conforming mortgages. The FHFB recently said the average value was \$183,485.

Consequently, both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac just announced they will raise their conforming loan limit to \$252,700, a 5.3 percent in-

crease, beginning Jan. 1 for single-family mortgage loans.

The companies estimated the higher limit will allow an additional 270,000 families to obtain lower-cost mortgage financing. They estimate that total mortgage interest savings for a borrower with a typical 30-year mortgage at the new loan limit is about \$15,800 to \$16,100 over the life of the mortgage.

The California Association of Realtors expects 16,000 home buyers to qualify for conforming loans that would have been forced to go the jumbo route otherwise.

Richard Pas, president of Heartland Home Mortgage Co. Inc. in

Hartford and past president of Wisconsin Brokers Association, said it will help some of his customers. To keep financing costs down, Pas said, some home buyers put enough cash down when they purchase their houses to keep the mortgage amount within the current \$240,000 loan conforming limit. But, for many buyers in expensive markets it's hard to come up with enough cash to make up the difference between the purchase price and the conforming loan limit.

Pas said about a tenth of his customers need mortgage loans over the conforming loan limit. One strategy they use to get the lower rate is to

take a second mortgage to bridge the difference between the down payment and conforming loan limit.

"There can't be anybody who is unhappy with this change. It provides flexibility to both borrowers and lenders alike," Pas said.

The new loan limits for mortgages on multifamily properties will be:

■ \$323,400 for two-family properties, up from \$307,100.

■ \$390,900 for three-family properties, up from \$371,200.

■ \$485,800 for four-family properties, up from \$461,350.

Bay Area leads wave as luxury home sales peak in California

Realty Trends

By Warren Lutz

ket remains robust but unlikely to maintain the summer's torrid pace.

The Midwest and the South had the biggest sales drops and the Northeast and the West saw weakening in prices.

NAR President Dennis R. Crank remained upbeat in his analysis of the numbers.

"Demand is strong in both the entry-level and trade-up segments of the market," Crank said. "Home buyers continue to enjoy a variety of factors, such as wage growth and low inflation, that make it easier for them to afford to own a home."

The median home sale price slid from \$134,400 to \$133,100 in October, NAR reported.

Pricey California

There may be more of those Internet or high-tech millionaires lurking about in California than most realize.

Luxury home sales peaked during third-quarter 1999 in the Golden State with 2,175 homes selling for at least \$1 million, according to Accion Corp.'s DataQuick Products Division.

That amounts to a 35 percent gain, while overall sale prices jumped 6.9 percent — from \$143,749 to \$153,675.

And the hottest region of the state? The San Francisco Bay Area, of course, with 884 homes selling for more than six figures.

DataQuick reported that such prestige homes' values were appreciating by 8 to 10 percent annually.

But Beverly Hills maintained its pricey image, despite the Bay Area's surge, by recording the highest price — \$12 million. It was also the biggest

house at 14,016 square feet for eight bedrooms and nine bathrooms.

Electronic signatures

Plenty of battles are being won on the paperless mortgage front, but complete victory won't come until the government takes a stand.

But that day is getting closer, as both houses of Congress separately and overwhelmingly approved digital signature legislation in November. The House passed the E-SIGN bill, which was widely supported by the financial services industry, while the Senate passed a similar bill that generally offers stronger consumer protections.

Such legislative support may indicate that electronic real estate transactions are within the grasp of the industry and consumers.

The e-signatures essentially allow for electronic delivery of documents and provide an equal legal ground for paper-based and electronic transactions.

They involve technologies that verify a person's identity, authenticate certain documents and assure safe transmission of contracts over the Internet.

While digital signatures may not reduce the number of signatures consumers must make to buy a home, they would greatly reduce the amount of paper shuffling.

For example, lenders would not have to send inch-thick loan packages back and forth to consumers and other parties to the transaction — often for weeks — until closing.

So far, President Clinton's Administration has been unclear whether either bill would be vetoed or signed.

The E-SIGN bill allows lenders to make disclosures required by con-

sumer protection laws, such as the Truth in Lending Act, through electronic means — the bill was amended to require banks to have consumers sign a "conspicuous and visually separate" consent request before such disclosures can be sent electronically.

But critics said electronic delivery methods are not as stable or widespread to guarantee delivery of electronic disclosures.

The Senate bill includes language that protects against firms that might try to confuse consumers with electronic disclosures or pressure consumers into waiving their rights to paper records.

Housing struggles

A pair of recent reports have shown that plenty of problems exist for African-Americans trying to buy homes and keep their homes.

In a report entitled, "The Color of Money Revisited: Racial Lending Patterns in Atlanta's Neighborhoods," published in the quarterly Housing Policy Debate, researchers Elvin Wyly, of Rutgers University, and Steven Holloway of the University of

Georgia, show mortgage redlining identified in the 1980s in Atlanta may continue.

They found that that lenders made 4.2 times as many conventional home purchase loans per owner-occupied unit to middle-income white neighborhoods as to middle-income black neighborhoods. Ten years ago, the ratio was 5:2.

They called the results "disappointing" in the face of the sweeping changes in the national home financing system over the past 10 years as lending to the original neighborhoods in question was virtually unchanged.

But they also warned that data may be misleading as they concentrated on inner-city neighborhoods without considering the outward expansion of suburban development.

They also had concerns that many structural and institutional factors impede efforts to increase lending to under-served borrowers and lenders. And the purpose of the "Color of Money" project, written by the Atlanta Constitution-Journal, was to determine whether and to what ex-

tent Atlanta's racial geographic patterns of mortgage lending have changed over past decades.

Another report entitled, "Two Steps Back: The Dual Mortgage Market, Predatory Lending and the Undoing of Community Development," by the Woodstock Institute, found 58 percent of refinancing loans in the Chicago-area by sub-prime lenders went to African-Americans in 1998.

That compared to less than 10 percent in mostly white neighborhoods. They also found that lending by sub-prime firms in African-American neighborhoods grew by almost 30 times from 1993 to 1998, compared to the 2.5 times increase in white areas.

The sub-prime sector — firms that specialize in lending to homeowners with less than perfect credit — has boomed nationally since 1993, with refinancing lending increasing by almost 900 percent from 1993 to 1998, while refinancing lending by prime lenders increased less than 3 percent over the same period.

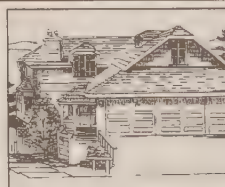
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6042 MANCHESTER DR. New listing! Fabulous 4BD/3BA French Normandy "castle." Double lot, Bay views & gardens. Dee Knowland



MONTCLAIR.....\$775,000
2820 BURTON. Spacious 5+BD/4BA contemporary w/huge flat yard, kitchen/FR, rumpus, 4023+/- sq. ft. Michelle Miller



ROCKRIDGE (UPPER).....\$669,000
6350 CONTRA COSTA RD. Best buy in great area! 2-yr old contemporary, 4BD/4BA, formal DR, huge FR. Hillcrest school. Anne Feste

By Appointment



PIEDMONT.....\$3,900,000
Gracious Med/Italianate home on 2/3 acre of lush grounds, Bay view, 6+BD/6+BA, library, rumpus room. Georgia Cornell



MONTCLAIR.....\$775,000
Custom Traditional near Village, 5BD/3BA, formal DR, family room. Perfect for home office or au pair. Wendy Gardner

Investment

OAKLAND.....\$279,000
Fully rented 6-plex, all 1BD/1BA units. Between 35th Ave. & High St.. Price is "as is." Tom Würst

Coming Soon

BERKELEY.....\$695,000
Heart of Elmwood! Wonderful 4+BD/2+BA with updated kitchen, sunporch, garage converted to studio. Near College Avenue. Sandi Klemmer

For Lease



PIEDMONT.....
Magnificent estate property. 7+BD/7+BA, beautiful grounds, pool, partially furnished. Avail. January, 2000. \$12,000/mo. Georgia Cornell



GLENVIEW.....\$289,000
Wonderful 2BD/1BA with traditional charm, updated kitchen & bath, lovely garden. Michelle Vasey

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Companies sail into Alameda Point

Former plane hangars and nearby land are turning into offices and business parks as 'Silicon Island' ex-Navy sites evolve

You can stop calling the island of Alameda the Old Navy store.

City officials hope the area's reputation as the new "Silicon Island," the home of software and special effects firms, will supersede Alameda Naval Air Station's longtime reputation as one of the U.S. Navy's primary ports of call.

Alameda Point is only one of the emerging business parks on Silicon Island.

Nearby Marina Village and Harbor Bay business parks have lured companies like Wind River Systems, ReSourcePhoenix.com and Lucent Technologies.

The divorce from the military was fairly dramatic for a city wedded to naval and civilian aviation for more than 56 years.

The base was where pilot Eugene Ely landed the first plane aboard a Navy ship in 1911 and where Pan American Airways launched its China Clipper in 1935. In fact, until its closure in 1996, businesses around the base depended on the military for their livelihood.

Today former plane hangars at Alameda Point are home to civilian companies such as Manex Entertainment, a special effects and film production studio behind the futuristic movie "The Matrix." Manex also created the special effects inside one of the hangars for the Christmas movie "Bicentennial Man," the story of a robot, played by Robin Williams,

Blueprints

By Psyche Pascual

who wants to be human.

The Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority, which is managing the Alameda Point property, is far ahead in converting defense property to civilian use, according to Alameda's Deputy City Manager and chief development officer Dave Berger.

About 1,600 civilian jobs have been created at Alameda Point since the bases were closed, "and we've only been doing this since April of 1997," he said. That's about half of the jobs that were lost when the bases shut down. "We have filled 2 million square feet of space that wasn't on the market five years ago."

The Navy's former Fleet Industrial Supply Center may see its first new commercial development as early as next year, when San Francisco-based Catellus Development Corp. is expected to break ground on 1.2 million to 1.4 million square feet of office and industrial space.

There are economic incentives that city officials hope will lure new businesses looking for cheap warehouses.

In August, Bank of America and the East Bay Conversion Reinvestment Commission announced the creation of a \$1 million loan fund aimed at small businesses that want

to move into closed military bases, including Alameda's.

New residential development has also created affordable housing for workers close to the business parks, said Bruce Knopf, economic development manager for Alameda.

"I hear CEOs of businesses talk about feeling safe here, feeling like they're in a real community," he said.

THE RENT: 30 cents a square foot for a warehouse to 75 cents a square foot for a restaurant.

WHO'S MOVING IN: Audio Video Technical Services, Tower Aviation, Nelson Marine

When Audio Video Technical Services outgrew three buildings in San Francisco, it went directly from the city to a hangar at 2501 Monarch St. The company, which sets up audio and television equipment for conferences and corporate events, signed a 10-year lease with an option to purchase a 65,000-square-foot hangar.

Company officials visited clients at the former Navy base and thought a hangar would be a great place to move the warehouse and offices.

"The rent is unbelievably lower here," Chief Financial Officer Paul Vindigni said. "It was a deal we couldn't turn our backs on. Also we got a break because we have paid for our tenant improvements ourselves."

This month, AVTS relocated to Alameda Point, bringing about 100 people with it.

Despite the renovation, AVTS's new building still looks like a hangar, and "it still feels like a base. All the buildings are still military beige," said Helen Anderson, director of project management. "I expect to see soldiers in uniform marching down the road."

Bits and pieces

El Sobrante-based ProMedia, a multimedia company, is moving its corporate offices to Hercules, the home of Bio-Rad. ProMedia is expected to break ground on a 60,000-square-foot building in the North Shore Business Park before the end of the month, said Joe Ernst, a development associate with SRM Associates, who handled the sale. ProMedia is a multimedia company that designs and installs sound systems for large arenas such as PacBell Park, the Giants' new stadium in San Francisco. The company purchased the parcel from North Shore Investments, which owns three more lots in the business park, to build a new warehouse and corporate office.

Psyche Pascual's Blueprints column on East Bay construction and development runs the second and fourth Sunday of each month in the Contra Costa Times Business section. Reach her at 925-952-2670 or by e-mail at ppascual@cctimes.com. Items can also be faxed to her at 925-952-2665 or mailed to Blueprints, The Times, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099.

Bay Area prices decrease last month, rise for the year

The Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco area that prices in most categories fell last month, but...

While grocery prices in the Bay area have fallen last month, they are up 2.7 percent since November of last year. Line prices are down 4.2 percent since last month, but whopping 21.9 percent since last year, by far the biggest...

Other Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes released last month, they are up 6.7 percent since last year. Perhaps the best news in the electricity market where costs have remained flat year ago, and have fallen 0.6 percent since last month.

The cost of shelter bucked the trend, rising 6.7 percent month period and 0.3 percent over the last month. In general, Bay Area prices have risen slightly faster than in the western states as a whole, but the difference is in the shelter market.

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Barbara Marienthal



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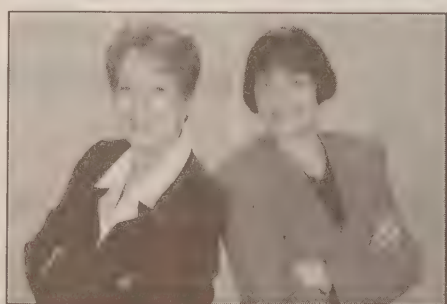
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Information is current as of December 14, 1999. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$252,700; jumbo loans are in excess of \$252,700. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. VA—not available. NQ—rate not quoted. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 1999 Consumer News Systems



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Take a second look at adjustable loan route

Selecting the right loan product to suit your needs is one of the most difficult decisions of the mortgage process.

Some choices are daunting. Should you choose an adjustable rate mortgage or a fixed rate? Or should you choose a fixed rate loan that may regret later? Or should you ultimately believe that the adjustable is the better deal.

Some loan products offer you both. The adjustable rate mortgage, but all the benefits of a fixed rate. I call it the ultimate adjustable loan. It is also called a "hybrid" loan.

Adjustable rate mortgages offer lower interest rates for the first six or seven years and then adjust up or down one or two percent. They are based on an index such as the One Year Treasury Bill or the LIBOR (the London Interbank Offered Rate).

There are other indices, but all adjustable rate mortgages have one thing in common: they have a margin that the lenders' profit margin. When added to the current rate, it gives you your note rate.

The problem with an adjustable mortgage is usually the life cap. It is commonly five or six points over the initial start rate or is lender set. This generally means your rate will range between eleven and thirteen percent.

With the most adjustable rate mortgage in a worse case situation, you can reach your life cap within the first five years of your mortgage.

With the two/one lender-funded mortgage, you receive the advantages of an adjustable rate mortgage low rate in the first year. One point below the second year and the third year, 30th year is your note rate.

For example, the actual note rate is 6 percent. The first year's payments would be based on the initial rate of 5 percent, the second year at 6 percent, the third through 30th at 8 percent.

What's the catch? The two/one mortgage has a "note rate" which is usually one percent higher than the floating 30 year fixed rate at the end. And, while there are some programs available for jumbo loans over \$250,000, most lenders require the buydown to conforming amount limits.

This is a loan that we often recommend to first time homebuyers who are making that leap from a rental payment to a mortgage payment. It allows easier first years pay-

Mortgage Madness



By
Karen Senzig

"The catch? A two-one buydown tacks on a one percent note rate..."

ments with out the stress of a high life cap that could strangle them down the road.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814 and ksenzig@aol.com.

Some inspectors find asbestos too hot to handle

Home Inspection



By
Barry Stone

"Few home inspectors are qualified to handle this material. Know the qualifications..."

would not be required. Other inspectors regard themselves as the hired advocates of their clients and make every effort to provide any information that would be in the client's best interests.

As a general rule, home inspectors do not include asbestos information in their reports, and most inspection contracts disclaim re-

sponsibility for environmental hazards of any kind. Additionally, all of the state and national inspector associations categorically exclude asbestos inspection from their professional standards of practice. Therefore, your inspector may be technically off the proverbial hook.

To legally include asbestos as part of a home inspection, an inspector must be CAL-OSHA (California Occupational Safety Hazards Administration) and AHERA (Asbestos Hazards Emergency Response Act) certified, but few home inspectors possess these qualifications. For non-certified inspectors to make authoritative disclosures regarding asbestos is to violate the law. Most inspectors take this restriction seriously. The result is nondisclosure of typical asbestos conditions, even when the inspector may be fully aware of them.

Q: The GFI (Ground Fault In-

terrupter) outlet in my garage is wired to the automatic door opener and the fire sprinkler alarm. If the GFI is tripped, the door and the fire alarm are both disabled. Do you think it's safe to wire these fixtures to the GFI?

A: The National Electric Code does not specifically forbid GFI protection for circuits that include garage door openers or fire alarms, but such installations are certainly impractical. In the event of a fire, water from the sprinklers could cause the GFI to trip, rendering the alarm inoperative.

Barry Stone is a certified building inspector and nationally syndicated columnist based in San Luis Obispo. Send questions to Barry Stone at 540 Alcatraz Road, Morro Bay, CA 93442, or via barry@house detective.com.

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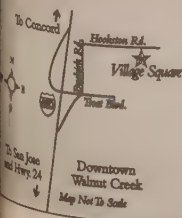
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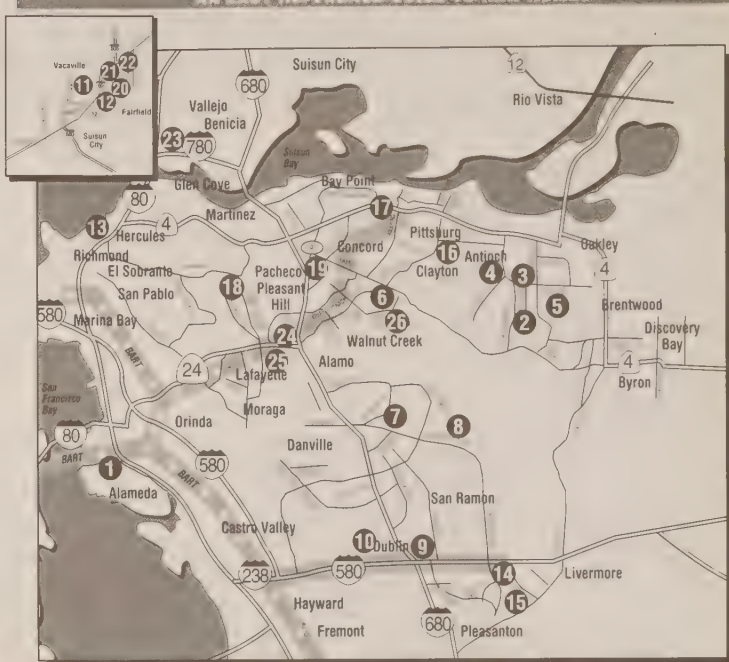
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2 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls

From the \$230,000's. New Release! Richland's distinctive tower accented architecture is a must see. Lrg. 4 & 5 BR. 2200-2600 sq ft w/3 car gar. country kit. 7000-sq ft. lots. Lone Tree to Mokelumne Dr. Open 11-5. 925-706-8855 or www.richlandinfo.com

3 Lone Tree Estates-Masters Collection

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4 Tourelle

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5 Diablo Vista

From the \$200,000's. Grand Opening Celebration! Affordable luxury living! Exciting new single-family neighborhood wideplans to 2700 sq ft. 5BR. 3BA. Central commute loc. at Fairview & San Jose. Richmond American Homes. www.richmondamerican.com. 925-516-7193

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6 Crystyl Ranch

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7 Campbell Place

From low \$600,000's. Ltd. edition of only 20 craftsman-style exec homes on trg. view lots w/leisurely floorplans 680 to Sycamore Vly Rd. E. rt. onto Camino Tassajara. Left on Glasgow Dr. rt on Glasgow Cir. rt on Campbell Pl. By Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238.

8 Shadow Creek Manor

From low \$600,000's. Selling Final Phase! Closeout Sale! 4-5 BR. Take 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara, follow signs. Open 10-5, closed Wed/Thurs. 925-736-7369.

DUBLIN

9 Merriam at Emerald Park

From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with 3 home designs up to 2200 sq ft. 5 BR & 3 baths. Loft, super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin BART. Hasenstaedt exit no. off 580. Open daily 10-5, Mon 2-5. Richmond American Homes. www.richmondamerican.com. 925-926-8629

10 Starward

From low \$300,000's. 3-4BR, 2BA, 2 story, steel built. Garden setting, view/shy access/shopping/schools. 580/exit San Ramon No/rt. Amador Vly/rt. Starward Dr. www.schulercor.com or 925-875-1060

FAIRFIELD

11 First Green at Rancho Solano CC

From the \$300,000's. Surrounded by 3 fairways & views of rolling hills. Loc. in established neighborhood w/shopping nearby. 4-5 BR, 2552-3429 sq ft. 2-3 car gar. Easy commuting w/I-80. Centex Homes. 707-426-5211

12 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley

From mid \$200,000's. Grand Opening! Spacious, to 7BR, 4BA, 3 plans, 2200-3400 sq ft. Richmond American Homes. Open 10-5/Mon 2-5. I-80 exit N. Texas St. rt. left on Dickson Hill/rt. on Manuel Campos Pkwy/rt. on Paradise Vly. 707-438-7600. www.richmondamerican.com

HERCULES

13 Belleterre

From \$306,880. New Release! 4BR, 3BA, 2 or 3 car gar. Opt 5th BR den or super family rm. Steel-built, structured cabling. Bay views, country setting, easy commutes. 180 to San Pablo Rd. to Hercules Ave. to Titan Way. Open 10-5, Tues 12-5. 510-741-9165 or www.schulercor.com

LIVERMORE

14 Ridgecrest

From high \$300,000's. Grand Closeout! 2273 sq ft., 4BR, 2 5BA, nr I-580/BART/Ace train. 580 to N. Livermore, left on Portola. Open 10-5, Mon 2-5. 925-371-6648. www.richmondamerican.com

15 Vintage Collection

From low \$600,000's. Scenic homes by Delco Bldrs. 10-12 ac. w/views of Livermore Valley/vineyards. Close to Ruby Hill Golf Course, top rated schools. Spacious floorplans, complete amenities. Open Thurs. Mon 925-606-5505

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16 Highlands Ranch

From low \$200,000's. Beautifully designed. 1134-3549 sq ft. 3-5BR. 283 car gar. opts incl. dens, lots media cabling system. Near shopping schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Loveland & Somersville. (925) 439-9070. Seeno homes. www.seenohomes.com

17 Monterra II, Summit Collection

From mid \$200,000's. 4-6 BR w/optional 7. Three floorplans. 1815-4243 sq ft. 3 car gar. great opts incl. second mstr BR dens, mstr retreats. Nr Inywis. walk to BART. Hwy 4 to Bailey Rd. so. rt. on Leland left on Southwood. 925-709-1037. www.seenohomes.com

PLEASANT HILL

18 Grayson Woods

From low \$500,000's. Up to \$15K allowances! View & Cul-de-sac. Lot! Perfect loc. for commuters. Two-story, 2212-3135 sq ft. 3-6BR, 3 car gar. Future golf course, low maint., 4 mi. to 3 highways/BART. Taylor Blvd to Grayson. Davidson Homes. Open 10-5, Mon 1-5. 925-274-0800

VILLAGE SQUARE

From \$300,000's to low \$400,000's. Single family homes by Delco Bldrs. 3-5BR, 2-3BA. quality craftsmanship. Private entry, landscaped common area. Close to PH BART. 680. More info: 925-952-4595

VACAVILLE

20 Brighton at Westgate

From the \$190,000's. Beautifully designed 3 & 4 BR. Seeno homes. 4 floorplans. 1432-1843 sq ft. 2 car garage, convenient location. 180 to Alamo Dr. to Peabody to Foxboro. 707-448-6243. www.seenohomes.com

21 Diamond Grove

From mid \$160,000's. Gated active adult comm. Contemporary 1 story homes. Beaut. pvt. rec. ctr./game rms. swimming & more! Open 11-5. 180 to Orange Dr. follow to Orange Tree Cir. 707-447-5800 or 707-447-5900

VILLAGE HILLS

From mid \$200,000's. No Mello-Rose! Beaut. Estate style, to 3312 sq ft. 3 & 4 BR, 3 car garages. Easy access to Hwy/shopping. Take Elmina exit off I-80. East to Beelard. 707-454-0162. www.seenohomes.com

VALLEJO

Crystal Pointe

From the \$190,000's. FINAL PHASE! Hillside homes in established neighborhood w/views of Carquinez Strait. 3 Plans to 1613 sq ft. 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Great commute loc. near I-80. Open Sat-Mon. www.richmondamerican.com. Richmond American Homes. 707-643-5486

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24 Larkey Estates

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WEEKLY HOME SALES

Compiled by TitleTech

ALAMEDA

1830 8th St - \$245,000
 22 Berkshire Rd - \$485,000
 1916 Broadway - \$305,000
 338 Broadway - \$290,000
 1004 Camellia Dr - \$371,000
 2000 Central Av #9 - \$158,000
 1720 Chapin St - \$277,000
 1285 Clarke Ln - \$322,500
 1044 Fontana Dr - \$252,500
 325 Kitty Hawk Rd #104 - \$120,000
 1511 Linden St - \$220,000
 1120 Marianas Ln - \$226,000
 995 Post St - \$320,000
 221 Santa Clara Av - \$285,000
 232 Santa Clara Av - \$270,000
 58 Shamrock Ln - \$475,000
 1213 Versailles Av - \$300,000

ALBANY

914 Cornell Av - \$174,000
 530 Kains Av - \$305,000

BERKELEY

1212 Bancroft Wy - \$228,000
 1467 Cornell Av - \$289,000
 1539 Dwight Wy - \$311,000
 82 Fairlawn Dr - \$455,000
 2326 Grant St - \$505,000
 1291 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$445,000
 1235 Haskell St - \$170,000
 20 Oak Ridge Rd - \$1,005,000
 963 Oxford St - \$770,000
 1871 Thousand Oaks Bl - \$755,000
 2436 Valley St - \$280,000
 476 Vincente Av - \$472,000
 830 Virginia St - \$100,000

EL CERRITO

1402 Atwell Dr - \$440,000
 1115 Brewster Dr - \$411,000
 7601 Errol Dr - \$337,000
 7111 Fairmount Av - \$256,500
 5218 Gordon Av - \$207,000

EMERYVILLE

2 Admiral Dr #473 - \$195,000
 6 Admiral Dr #485 - \$136,000
 8 Admiral Dr #431 - \$235,000
 7 Captain Dr #407 - \$134,000
 5 Commodore Dr #206 - \$144,000
 5514 Doyle St #6 - \$250,000

1500 Park Av #332 - \$233,000

OAKLAND

2031 103rd Av - \$135,000
 2315 107th Av - \$167,000
 2421 108th Av - \$110,000
 1616 19th Av - \$75,000
 2027 42nd Av - \$148,000
 933 45th St - \$159,000
 823 53rd St - \$195,000
 633 57th St - \$265,000
 1539 5th Av - \$112,000
 1069 60th St - \$266,500
 891 61st St - \$208,000
 1202 62nd St - \$310,000
 1616 64th Av - \$120,000
 2110 64th Av - \$95,000
 952 75th Av - \$82,000
 2675 76th Av - \$171,000
 1630 7th Av - \$108,000
 1015 82nd Av - \$112,000
 2123 88th Av - \$205,000
 6680 Aitken Dr - \$519,000
 4421 Allendale Av - \$155,000
 1355 Alvarado Rd - \$383,000
 678 Alvarado Rd - \$285,000
 11006 Apricot St - \$84,000
 694 Arimo Av - \$465,000
 3866 Balfour Av - \$367,000
 2609 Best Av - \$206,000
 30 Biehs Ct - \$375,000
 5340 Broadway Tr #205 - \$295,000
 8079 Broadway Tr - \$675,000
 5942 Chabohn Tr - \$500,000
 3150 Coolidge Av - \$160,000
 10435 Dante Av - \$143,000
 3240 Delaware St - \$110,000
 2262 East 25th St - \$225,000
 9933 East St - \$110,000
 3038 Eastman Av - \$185,000
 5536 Edgerly St - \$168,000
 4706 Edgewood Av - \$455,000
 4631 El Centro Av - \$235,000
 602 El Dorado Av - \$376,500
 9877 Elmar Av - \$183,000
 115 Elysian Fields Dr - \$283,500
 6420 Essex St - \$125,000
 3811 Everett Av - \$239,000
 988 Franklin St #403 - \$190,000
 5216 Genoa St - \$113,500
 5585 Griffin St - \$300,000
 2475 Havenscourt Bl - \$175,000
 6141 Hillmont Dr - \$233,000
 7132 Holly St - \$82,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$120,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$485,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$277,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$289,529

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$174,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$305,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$239,500

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 100,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,005,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 311,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 445,000

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 5
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$207,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$440,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$256,500
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$330,300

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 7
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$134,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$250,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$144,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$189,571

3600 Lyon Av - \$135,000
 4454 MacArthur Bl - \$82,000
 3276 Madera Av - \$200,000
 1937 Magellan Dr - \$415,000
 3246 Magolia St - \$150,000
 160 Marlow Dr - \$333,000
 276 Mather St - \$340,000
 4481 Mattis Ct - \$281,000
 8004 McCormick Av - \$165,000
 10814 McIntyre St - \$176,000
 3021 Millsbrae Av - \$197,000
 22 Moss Av #201 - \$165,000
 8785 Mountain Bl #6 - \$124,000
 5821 Ocean View Dr - \$491,000
 6048 Outlook Av - \$210,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 91
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 75,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$675,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$190,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$240,544

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 5
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 499,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$2,000,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 612,500
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 989,800

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 32
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 95,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$355,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$165,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$177,781

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 29
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 96,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$439,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$232,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$252,724

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$127,500
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$230,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$195,500
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$184,333

6416 Pinehaven Rd - \$220,000
 3276 Prentiss St - \$150,000
 4841 Proctor Av - \$365,000
 4658 Redwood Rd - \$299,000
 32 Rio Vista Av #B - \$400,000
 4030 San Leandro St - \$135,500
 258 Santa Rosa Av - \$275,000
 6654 Sobrante Rd - \$465,000
 9826 Springfield St - \$91,000
 512 Spruce St - \$140,000
 189 Stonewall Rd - \$491,500
 4260 Suter St - \$165,000
 6211 Telegraph Av #25 - \$118,000
 42 Turtle Creek St - \$279,500
 4457 View Pl - \$396,500

19 Villanova Ln - \$557,000
 33 Villanova Ln - \$523,500
 3689 Virden Av - \$240,000
 2939 West St - \$160,000
 6109 Westover Dr - \$485,000
 250 Whitmore St #215 - \$147,000
 1833 Woodhaven Wy - \$444,000
 5025 Woodminster Ln #105 - \$114,000
 979 Yerba Buena Av - \$150,000

PIEDMONT

1 Indian Gulch Rd - \$2,000,000
 45 Inverleith Tr - \$720,000
 317 Pala Av - \$612,500
 11 Parkside Dr - \$499,000
 350 Scenic Av - \$1,117,500

RICHMOND

2924 15th St - \$165,000
 2409 22nd St - \$167,000
 1527 27th St - \$134,000
 9 2nd St - \$127,000
 800 35th St - \$213,000
 937 36th St - \$162,000
 957 36th St - \$170,500
 2948 Arundel Wy - \$95,000
 5905 Bayview Av - \$344,000
 2523 Baywood Wy #28 - \$247,500
 4323 Bell Av - \$182,000
 5201 Burlingame Av - \$177,000
 5344 Cerro Sur - \$355,000
 127 Creekside Ct #11 - \$145,000
 2533 Dover Av - \$105,000
 4837 El Grande Pl - \$263,500
 2325 Esmond Av - \$115,000
 1006 Francisca Ct - \$225,000
 3700 Garvin Av - \$176,000
 2990 Groom Dr - \$138,000
 3749 Hidden Springs Ct - \$286,000
 60 Homer Ct - \$219,000
 2726 Humphrey Av - \$165,000
 3135 Lake View Ct - \$253,000
 13 Las Moradas Cr - \$108,000
 3787 North Stonegren #11 - \$99,000
 8 Parkview Tr - \$159,000
 2704 Ridge Rd - \$170,000
 663 Santa Maria Rd - \$194,000
 245 South 37th St - \$97,000
 912 South 43rd St - \$132,500
 842 South 49th St - \$100,000

SAN LEANDRO

16288 Ashland Dr - \$195,000
 16298 Ashland Dr - \$195,000
 261 Via Pecora - \$210,000

1217 125th St - \$195,000
 396 Arroyo Dr - \$195,000
 1159 Begonia Dr - \$195,000
 2242 Be... - \$195,000
 834 Billings Dr - \$195,000
 1781 B... - \$195,000
 3960 C... - \$195,000
 721 C... - \$195,000
 136 C... - \$195,000
 16618 Cowles St - \$195,000
 15584 Crabtree - \$195,000
 529 East... - \$195,000
 15201 F... - \$195,000
 15072 F... - \$195,000
 947 H... - \$195,000
 14918 Inlet Ct - \$195,000
 894 L... - \$195,000
 431 Lloyd... - \$195,000
 1910 Loma... - \$195,000
 2412 Loma... - \$195,000
 1650 O... - \$195,000
 15176 Ori... - \$195,000
 15178 Ori... - \$195,000
 15180 Ori... - \$195,000
 15025 Sw... - \$195,000
 14403 T... - \$195,000
 1644 View Dr - \$195,000
 2077 Wash... - \$195,000
 121 Williams St - \$195,000

SAN LORENZO

16288 Ashland Dr - \$195,000
 16298 Ashland Dr - \$195,000
 261 Via Pecora - \$210,000

SAN LORENZO

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers. The information is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a basis for a real estate transaction. The information is not a guarantee of the accuracy or completeness of the information. The information is based upon the best information available at the time of publication. Call 510-568-7233.

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MAGICAL MEDITERRANEAN.....\$475,000
 Just listed! Spacious upper Oakmore Mediterranean with bay view and large level back yard! Extra large bedrooms, hardwood floors.
 1917 Oak Crest Drive.
 PATRICIA BENNETT 510-482-9000

IMPRESSIVE TWO-STORY.....\$349,000
 Near Chabot regional park trails, hiking and biking, this spacious 4BD, 2BA Sequoyah Hills home has a large level yard, nice tile kitchen and baths. Drive by to fall in love! 7901 Surrey Lane.
 ROSEMARY GREENE 510-635-9842

PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING.....\$375,000
 You'll love this delightful Montclair home on quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious light-filled with 4BD, 2BA, country kitchen and huge lot. 6252 Robin Hood Way.
 M.J. MCCONVILLE 510-287-9583

LOFTY PREMISES (AT NON-LOFTY PRICE).....\$307,950
 Jack London Square, 1,411 sq.ft. loft in award-winning 10-unit Pocket Building. High beamed ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, storage, 1-car secure parking, and walk to marina. 3734 14th Street.
 SHERDELLA SIMS 510-287-9586

Shown By Appointment

INCREDIBLE GLENVIEW DUPLEX.....\$395,000
 Newly listed on a quiet street, charming 2BD, 1BA lower unit with lovely moldings, large updated kitchen, room for office. Upper unit sun-drenched studio with Bay Bridge view.
 HAL MARCUS 510-287-5886

WESTSIDE! DANVILLE!.....\$429,000
 Breathtaking views of Las Trampas, beautiful 3BD, 2.5 BA, hardwood floors, newer furnace and A/C, spa. 48 acre lot - great expansion potential.
 RON GATTI 925-837-2200

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.....\$479,000
 ...is how you'll feel when you enter this warm and cozy San Ramon home. From the open living room to the 2 large master suites, this home expresses open hospitality. 5BD, 3 full BA, and sitting on a tranquil cul-de-sac. You won't want to leave.
 M. GOODI KOONTZ 925-837-2200

UPDATED CAPE COD.....\$385,000
 Walnut Creek 3BD + den, 2.5BA, 2,010 sq.ft., maple flooring, vaulted ceilings, white gourmet kitchen with solarium nook, French doors, central air, Satillo pavers and lush gardens, community pool, tennis and spa. No rear neighbors. Must see!
 PAM BERGE 925-837-2200

BEST OF WATERFORD.....\$355,000
 View, underground parking space, beautiful 2BD 1.5BA Enjoy morning bright light. Charming must see in Walnut Creek.
 SACHIKO SANCHEZ 925-837-2200

DRAMATIC CONTEMPORARY GABLE.....\$303,950
 This exquisite immaculate dream home is a wonderful retreat comprised of natural beauty, privacy, serenity, and tranquility in prime Pleasanton location. Walk to park, shops and restaurants. 3BD, 2.5BA, formal living room with fireplace, vaulted ceiling, attached, oversized 2-car garage, hardwood floor throughout first level, 6 mos. old brilliant paint. MUST SEE.
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Parks

FROM PAGE B1

one," dumping the body under a tree of darkness in a remote part of Tilden Park. He's sure no one will find it there.

This literary license illustrates an important fact about Tilden Park: For all its beauty, much of Tilden Park is the remarkably wild and remote wilderness. The park can be said about several other parks in the East Bay Regional Park system.

Even fantasy notwithstanding, Tilden Park, an invaluable natural resource, is the result of more than a century of vision, planning, and hard work by some of the East Bay's best civic leaders and citizens. Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect, visited the area in 1865, he was invited to see the city government of San Francisco about a plan for a large park similar to the one he was working on in New York City — Central Park. During this visit, Olmsted suggested the creation of "scenic areas" across the top of the Contra Costa Hills in the East Bay.

A good idea then and now, but Olmsted's vision would have to wait. The East Bay parks plan was filed and forgotten for the next several decades.

Then in a 1906 study on the civic

improvement of Oakland, Charles Robinson, a well-known city planner, urged the creation of formal parklands in the East Bay Hills.

Nine years later, another city planner named Dr. Werner Hegemann wrote a city plan for Oakland and Berkeley that called for parklands along the shorelines, within city limits, and in the hills.

Hegemann's plan read, "Beautiful sites like Wildcat Canyon must be held forever in a natural state, and shoals serve the people for securing water and park reservations." Momentum was picking up.

By the late 1920s, the East Bay Municipal Utility District sold tracts of its land holdings in the East Bay Hills to the surrounding communities for the purpose of creating a regional park system.

Finally in 1934, Alameda and Contra Costa county citizens voted to create a regional park district in the Berkeley and Oakland hills. The first president of the East Bay Regional Park District was Major Charles Lee Tilden, a visionary civic leader and local businessman. Tilden is called the "Father of the Park System" for his tireless campaigning to help create these parks.

Today, the East Bay Regional Park System has grown to include 91,000 acres, 56 parks, and 20 nature trails. The first three parks opened to the public in 1936 were Roundtop Park, now called Sibley Volcanic regional Preserve, Temescal Park and Wildcat Canyon, now called Tilden Park.

Tilden Regional Park, named for its benefactor, is by far the most popular of all the East Bay's regional parks. It incorporates many entertaining and educational amenities within rugged

terrain in the hills above Berkeley: a botanical garden, a carousel, a golf course, Lake Anza, the Brazil building, a train ride, a pony ride and an exhibit for naturalists.

■ For information on facilities, hours or rental of space in East Bay Regional Parks: 510-635-0135.

■ Recorded information about events, exhibits, and hours for East Bay Regional Parks: 510-562-PARK (7275).

Wildcat Canyon Regional Park
Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is 2,428 acre park created in 1976 in the hills above Richmond and El Cerrito. It incorporates Alvarado Park, which began as a private park in

Tilden Park carousel

The carousel and the Brazil building in particular boast a colorful history. The Tilden Park carousel was built in 1911 by the nationally renowned Herschel Spielman Company of New York, and is a priceless specimen of folk art from the golden age of American carousels. It was moved from Griffith Park in Los Angeles into Tilden Park in 1948.

The 40 original wooden animals comprising the carousel's outer rows

feature no fewer than 14 varieties of hand-carved and gaily-painted creatures, both mythical and real.

Besides the carousel itself, there are two band organs, including a circa 1910 model with gilded scrollwork and a wooden figure of an Edwardian band leader. The wooden shed that now houses the carousel was copied from the 1911 vintage one in Griffith Park. The carousel ride is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and daily during summer vacations.

This joyous creation was threatened with demolition and removal in 1976, but a grass roots, East Bay-wide movement convinced the East Bay Regional Park Board to buy it and then restore it to its original glory, proving that historic preservation can succeed to everyone's benefit. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places, and chil-

dren of all ages can enjoy riding on its wondrous wooden concoctions.

The Brazil building

The Brazil Building was originally constructed by the federal government's Works Progress Administration in about 1940. It contains the interior from the Brazilian exhibit at the 1939 San Francisco World's Fair on Treasure Island. The building, a rustic wooden facility, has a spacious meeting hall, a patio, and a commercial kitchen. It is often used for weddings, seminars, reunions, business meetings, award luncheons and other large social events.

Wildcat Canyon Regional Park

Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is 2,428 acre park created in 1976 in the hills above Richmond and El Cerrito. It incorporates Alvarado Park, which began as a private park in

1909, and was taken over by the city of Richmond in 1923. It was transferred to the East Bay Regional Park System in 1985, and includes extensive stonework from the old open-air pavilion and dance platform, as well as an old stone bridge and light standards from the early 1900s.

The Alvarado portion of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is included on the National Register of Historic Sites.

■ Next week: Let's examine the history, urban surroundings and landscape features of some of the largest and most popular public parks within Oakland city limits.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson.

Windows

FROM PAGE B1

and fairly easy to install. Besides, you don't have to retrim every window in the house. Concentrate instead on just the important windows — say, the living room or dining room spaces that may already have beautiful crown molding at the ceiling, decent baseboards, a decorative fireplace mantel or built-in bookshelves. Or bring the window over to the kitchen sink up to the same standards as the raised-panel doors and drawers on existing cabinets.

Until relatively recently, stock wood molding was the only material available. Now, "millwork" made of extruded urethane is an option. It can be sawed, glued, nailed or painted like wood. Simulated wood-grain urethane molding can be stained with a nonpenetrating wood stain. Both materials are available at or through most lumberyards or home centers.

Even the manufacturers of mini-blinds and pleated shades are getting into the act. Hunter Douglas, for example, offers decorative urethane trims for the tops of windows along with matching chair rail molding and crown molding for the ceiling and baseboards.

Millwork comes in dozens of styles and dozens of shapely profiles, from plain to fancy, Greek Re-

vival to Victorian, Arts & Crafts to Art Deco, Georgian, Federal, Italianate and more. Carved ivy, acanthus or grape leaves, egg-and-dart, fluted and beaded designs, though machine-milled, evoke the look of hand-crafted woodwork.

One advantage of using urethane elements rather than wood molding is that manufacturers like Style-Mark, among others, offer ready-made pediments in classic styles once reserved for use above front doors on the outside of the house, including traditional peaked, ram's head, acorn and sunburst styles.

Installing a pediment above an interior window is an excellent way to make a focal point out of what otherwise would be forgettable, especially in rooms with high ceilings.

Likewise, raised panels of urethane that evoke the look of classic wood wainscoting also come ready-made in a wide range of sizes to fill the gap between the bottom of the window sill and the floor. It's possible to do the same thing with wood molding — just a little more difficult.

Using either material, a moderately skilled and patient do-it-yourselfer can transform the look of an underprivileged window in less than a day.

Use a sharp utility knife to break the paint seal between the window and the inside edge of the old window trim and between the wall and the outside edge. Then carefully pry off the old casings along the sides of

the window and the head piece above.

If using a pre-fab urethane panel below or pediment above, order them to fit the dimensions of the window. Otherwise, new side casings and headers in wood or urethane can be cut to fit.

To avoid having to make difficult mitered cuts where the side casings meet the header at the top of the window, buy ready-made decorative square or rectangular plinth blocks for each of the corners and butt the vertical and horizontal elements up against them.

The objective is not just to replace plain window trim with fancy, but to beef it up with wider, heavier-looking goods — from 6 to 12 inches — to give a window a more substantial, architectural look.

You can achieve this with wood molding by layering or stacking, installing a crown molding, for example, atop the horizontal cross piece at the top of the window, or nailing delicate picture-frame molding atop the side pieces.

Urethane versions of "built-up" styles produce the same effect and, because they're made in one piece, can be more convenient to use.

Bestowing grace, charm and architectural worthiness on a standard window using wood or urethane molding can transform not only the window itself, but completely alter the character of a room. By the way, the same elements can bring interior doorways up to par as well.

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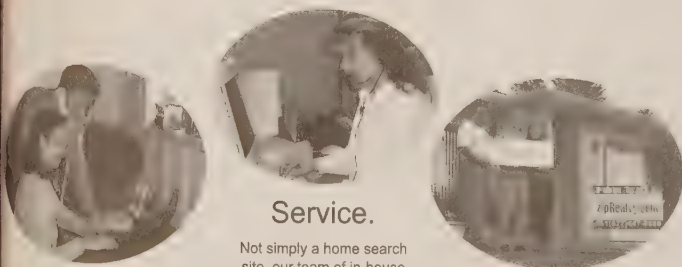
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YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES OPEN SUNDAY*

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
516 Central Ave Walt Gahvert, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1129	384/-Ba	2-4	\$399,900
1622 Clinton Ave Open Saturday only Bette Bari, Alameda Realty (510) 303-2525	484/3Ba	2-4	\$399,900
3012 Marina Russ, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4713	284/1.5Ba	2-4	\$375,000
1804 9th St Alan Gooch, Kane & Associates (510) 521-0980	384/2Ba	2-4	\$295,000
2254 Pacific Ave Fred Hobbs, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 521-8181 ext. 1308	2 + 84/2Ba	2-4	\$254,000
1624 A North St Open Saturday & Sunday Bill Bisset, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1108	2 + 84/1Ba	2-4	\$239,500
7410 Hoover Ct Les Drosick, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1105	284/1Ba	2-4	\$220,000

645 Haight
Saturday Only Open House
Russ, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4713

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2075 Emerson Nancy Plattford, Prudential (510) 845-0200	484/-Ba	2-4	\$376,000
1849 Shattuck #406 Colleen Larkan, Thormall Properties (510) 848-1950 x240	2bd/1Ba	2-4	\$265,000
2804 Hillgeess Camille Rogers, Prudential (510) 845-0200	104/-Ba	2-4	\$220,000
1355 Curtis St Blane (510) 280-2139, RED OAK REAL ESTATE	284/-Ba	2-5	\$170,000

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty Size Hours Price

1405 Brewster Dr
Montclair
Melitta Benson, The Grubb Co. (510) 339-0400

EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1250 Powell Marian Wilson, Prudential (510) 898-9411	184/-Ba	2-4	\$289,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6042 Manchester Dr Rockridge (Upper) Dee Knowland, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460	484/3Ba	2-4:30	\$2,400,000
16 Schooner Hill Hiller Nancy Plattford, Prudential (510) 845-0200	2 + 84/-Ba	2-4	\$798,000
2820 Burton Montclair Michelle Miller, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460	5 + 84/4Ba	2-4:30	\$775,000

1250 Powell
Marian Wilson, Prudential (510) 898-9411

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6350 Contra Costa Rd Rockridge (Upper) Anne Fests, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460	484/4Ba	2-4:30	\$669,000
6340 Longcroft Dr. Teresa Luebbert, 925-989-8145, On Line Properties	4 bd./3 ba.	12-4	\$640,000
6618 Charing Cross Rd Y. Ben-David, Prudential (510) 339-9290	3 + 84/2Ba	2-4:30	\$954,000
5457 Masonic Ave Upper Rockridge Suzanne Yamamoto, Coldwell Banker - Montclair (510) 339-4700	384/2Ba	2-5	\$499,000
6849 Broadway Terrace Montclair Erica Celestre, The Grubb Co. (510) 339-0400	484/-Ba	2-4	\$495,000

1250 Powell
Marian Wilson, Prudential (510) 898-9411

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1917 Oak Crest Dr. Oakmont, (Upper) Patricia Bennett, Montclair Better Homes (510) 482-9000	384/2 - Ba	2-4:30	\$475,000
6905 Pinehaven Rd. Montclair Nora Robinson, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-2573	384/2 - Ba	2-4:30	\$439,500
6252 Robin Hood Wy Montclair M.J. McConville, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9583	484/2Ba	2-4:30	\$375,000
7901 Surrey Lane Sequeyale Villa Rosenberry Greene, Montclair Better Homes (510) 635-8842	484/2Ba	2-4:30	\$349,000
4359 Terabella Rd Vince Moran, Prudential (510) 339-9290	384/2Ba	2-4:30	\$339,000

1250 Powell
Marian Wilson, Prudential (510) 898-9411

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
373 4th Street Lofy-Jack London Spore Shendola Stone, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-2573	484/-Ba	2-4:30	\$475,000
3238 Wyman St Marwell Park Rita Harrington, Prudential (510) 845-0200	284/-Ba	2-4	\$220,000
6276 Asacia Ave Ann Ward 925-258-1122, 925-258-1123	484/-Ba	2-4:30	\$375,000

SAN RAMON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2969 Millbridge Dr Elle Bowden, Elle Bowden & Associates	484/-Ba	2-4:30	\$375,000

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The Journal & The Alameda Journal
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*unless otherwise indicated

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Estate Sale
Lots of furniture, household items, toys, books, records, etc.
Fri & Sat, 10-5 p.m.
2000 Alameda Ave.,
Berkeley, CA 94704
Call 841-1111

Huge Moving Sale
Lots of furniture, household items, toys, books, records, etc.
Fri & Sat, 10-5 p.m.
2000 Alameda Ave.,
Berkeley, CA 94704
Call 841-1111

Moving Sale
Lawn tools, dishes, furn., glassware, books, plants, wine racks (new), clothes, ref., tables, books, plants, wine racks (new), clothes, ref., tables, books, plants, wine racks (new).
SAT. SUN. 9-4
4846 Crestone Nene Way

SAT. 8:30-2
Macellane's items Some furniture, children's clothing, toys, games, books, kitchen items, etc.
945 BLUROCK DR.

Toys Toys & More Toys
All in great condition. Incl. motorized 2 seater 2 spd. car, lots of other items.
1753 Crestone Peak Ct.
Sat. Only 7:30 - 1:00.

Berkeley

36 THE PLAZA DR.
at Domingo
SAT. 8-5
Misc. home goods

MOVING SALE
All furniture MUST GO! Mattresses, couches, coffee table, end tables, stereo, etc.
925-963-4722

2800 MADISON CT
Off Treat Rn Oak Drive
HUGE SALE! Collectibles, antiques, art, European crystal, porcelain, restaurant equip., much misc., clothing, distinctive Xmas gifts

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 9-7
Winter clothes and costume jewelry (encyclopedia, rings, brooches, bracelets etc.) some sterling, crystal, etc. Very rare! Large selection
1733 Elmhurst Lane
(Baldwin/Crestone/Hemphill)

Discovery Bay

DISCOVERY BAY MOVING SALE
Christmas, 2nd. household, furniture, NAUTICAL decor, some freebies.
Newport Dr. 1740-1667

Classifieds

Berkeley

Fridays & Saturdays, 9-11
Christmas cards, 2 radial arm saws, tools, odds & ends

2619 Cooper Ct.
(cross street Remicia)

Holiday Sample Sale
Unique gifts from Asia at great prices. Home decorations, pillows, bowls, plates, jewelry, scarves & more.
Sat-Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2829 Regent St. (Elmwood)

Brentwood

JUNK JUNK JUNK BIG BARN FULL

NO MONEY-Bring truck
SAT. SUN. 9-4
2600 WALNUT BLVD

Concord

GARAGE SALE
Small, Big, Mighty in Time For Christmas.
THURSDAY 9-5
2741 Tokala Dr.
Rn Tree/Gladway

MOVING!
SATURDAY 8-2 P.M.
3946 N. Peardale Dr.
Furniture, sport equipment, yard tools, household misc.

Martinez

YARD SALE
Saturday 9:30-11:30 AM
808 Parkway Dr. (off Hwy 101)
Redwood Pine St. exit
Salesman Samples - New!
Cookware, kit. tools, auto accessories, Sony Rack system \$75 Great Xmas gifts!

Moraga

BIG SALE
SATURDAY 12/18 9-4
25 MAYFIELD PLACE
Beanes Baby Beare Wine cooler, kit. utensils, linens,

Oakland

19 YEARS ACCUMULATION
Books, clothes, furn., hand. exercise equip., lots more!
6316 Castle Dr.
(Ascot to Mountain Gate to Castle Dr.)
Sat. 12/18, 10-5

SATURDAY 12/18, 9-2 Gift items:
hand. clothes, collectibles. 4500 Lincoln Ave.

Cerrito

ESTATE SALE
Sat Sun 9-4
Household goods, bedding, furn, or shine
633 Lexington Ave.
Bwn, Ulrick/Eureka

El Sobrante

GIANT YARD SALE
XMAS items, books, tools, toys fabric, yarn, housewares, craft supplies
509 RINCON RD
SAT SUN 9AM-4PM

Emeryville

Lafayette

Pittsburg

SATURDAY 12/17 8-2
RAIN OR SHINE
12 Dolphin Dr. (off Polaris)
Healthier treadmill, 3 yr old \$700 or asking \$300 cash \$250, futon, dog bed, some furn., craft items, misc household & clothes

Pleasanton

SATURDAY ONLY 9am-4pm
3924 Alma Cir
FREE RAILROAD TIES FOR SALE Val Vista kitchen cabinets & bathroom vanities, some oak tables (coffee, end), plus misc.
No Early Birds

Rodeo

MOVING SALE
Rain or Shine
Misc. items, some furn., Bearie Babies
Sunday 9-3
753 Cord Ridge Cir.
(Cross st. Viewpoint)

K Oakland

Huge Moving Sale
Lots of boy clothes, ages 6-mo-6 yrs, toys, household items, furniture, much more!
Saturday 10am-5pm
4320 Atlas Ave.

Piedmont

ESTATE SALE
10 Jerome Ave.
Sat/Sun 10-3. Liv. rm. furn., hand. items & clothes.

Pinole

1217 McDonald Dr
Sat. 9-5
Lg dog house 64"x44"x49" fully insulated built to last 30 yrs. \$90 bike rack (4 bikes) its RV bumper \$35, ping pong tbl, portable 250 watt hammock w/stand \$20, 25 square roof tiles, carpet equipment \$1-\$20, trampoline or bouncer \$25, 1" drive air impact gun Ingersoll Rand new \$150 \$150-724-6256

PINOLE GARAGE SALE
RAIN OR SHINE
2700 Wright Ave.
Sat. 12/17 8-2
Antiques, collectibles, vintage furn, art, misc., & more
EARLY BIRDS WELCOME!!

Rossmoor

ESTATE LIQUIDATION
Hide-a-bed, occasional chrs., this Baldwin piano, VHS, antique buffet, desk, bookcase China, cut glass, lamps, linens, kitchen & tools. Lots more & all priced to go. Easy access to sale. Fri & Sat 9-4
925-932-3499; 939-3545

San Pablo

Garage Sale
A LARGE Family;
Toys, Clothes, western books, Barbies, electronics, Aven. kids books & more.
Fri & Sat. 9-5 2722 18th St.

San Ramon

GAR/MOVING/FURN. SALE
SAT & SUN 9-12

1001 VISTA POINTE
(Boiling to ClubSport L on Canyon Lakes, L into Vista Pointe Circle, honk v. gate)
(925) 735-0141

Walnut Creek

COVIC BOOK SALE
1,500+ comics circa 1960-1980 priced to move for Christmas Spider-Man, Avengers, Captain America, Captain Marvel, Daredevil, Fantastic Four, Green Lantern, Invaders, Iron Man, Teen Titans, Thor, X-Men, etc. (series), and other hardcover issues. Sun, 10-2 P.M. 2155 Fairside Ave. Can't make it? Call (925) 296-0627

Holidays Boutiques

EL SOBRANTE ART GUILD
1999 Holiday Show
Nov. 20-Dec. 24, 1999
10am-5pm daily Fri. is 1200 Fitzgerald Dr. Pinole in the old Crown Books bldg. (910) 273-2445 A portion of the proceeds go to our local school & art students

GREAT GIFTS FROM RUSSIA
Russian Souvenir Sample Sale San Ramon 3004 MONTEVEGUE DR

TUES-FRI. 9-5
101 H St. Antioch
Christmas crafts, baskets, wreaths, swags, bird cages, Victorian lamp shades, crocheted baby blankets.

The Hills Newspapers Classified Department will be closed Friday, December 24th, for Christmas.

Deadline for In-column Classified Advertising is:

Publish Date	Deadline
Fri., Dec. 24	Thurs., Dec. 23 @ 10:00 a.m.
We will close at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23.	
We will reopen to take ads on Monday, December 27 @ 7:00 a.m.	

The Hills Newspapers

Montclair, Piedmonter Berkeley Voice/El Cerrito Journal

(510) 339-8777

Alameda Journal

(510) 748-1667

*We have thousands of classified ads in all of The Hills newspapers listed throughout the year. We are now accepting pre-paid advertising rates for 1999. Please call us for details. *We also accept credit cards for advertising. *We have a large inventory of classified ads for sale. *We have a large inventory of classified ads for sale. *We have a large inventory of classified ads for sale.

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kitchens, baths, decks.
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Ceramic tile, marble, granite
state, custom mosaics installa-
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dations by Trades Guild &
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Replaces old kitchen cabinets
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Landscaping, tree care & re-
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• Chimneys
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• More
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vice, demolition, excavation,
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Reliable. Free estimate.
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Pager (510) 385-5544
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Per Week. Every other week.
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• All Work Guaranteed
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total package. 511 wood res-
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Removals
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Fully Insured
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A Careful Tree Service
Certified Arborist #429 Trm-
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mates, references.
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Jerry #694067

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• Trimming
• Topping
• Hauling
• Firewood
530-2243
BRAD

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24 Hrs.
SPECIALIZED
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Full service tree care. Quality
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Small jobs specialty. Refer-
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510-339-6371

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price guaranteed. 510-524-7057

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Alameda's
Nearest Extremist!
Native Alamedan
Clean & Reliable
Call & hire him ONLY
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CRABTREE GUTTER
Gutter/roof cleaning. Roof
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Free est. At Crabtree (510)
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Excellent controller opp. in a fast paced & challenging environment. Position requires B.S. in accounting with CPA certificate. Exp. in manufacturing environment & cost accounting. Please send resume with salary history to Human Resources, P.O. Box 84, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Fax: 925-279-0574. Attn: Carla

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Staff Acct. - to 45K
Payroll Supervisor - to 37K
Fin. Analyst - to 50K
Loan Proc. Spec. to 16K
AP Clerk - to 13K
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Charity drive yields pennies on the half ton

Change adds up for Women's Daytime Drop-In Center

By John Snyder
STAFF WRITER

When Northbrae Properties agent Anita Thede suggested her office set out a jar at the front door to collect pennies for charity, she didn't anticipate the results.

Before the dust settled, the humble drive had hauled in a half ton of copper worth \$1,500 for the Women's Daytime Drop-in Center, a non-profit volunteer-run program that assists homeless women and children.

"Delightful people kept walking through the front door with pennies in all manner of containers, and the whole thing started to become a lot of fun," said Thede.

Local merchants and customers dragged in pennies by the coffee can, five-gallon jug, plastic bag and piggy bank.

Northbrae staffers figured out that pennies are worth about \$1.50 a pound, and took to toting up the growing haul.

"We were amazed at the neighborhood response," said Thede. "This is a great place to live."

'We don't need pennies'

Owners of Hopkins Street Bak-

ery, a Northbrae neighbor, came in with a special delivery one day: 40 pounds of pennies.

"We set our prices so that we don't need pennies, Hopkins Street Bakery owner Reza said. "Whenever people pay with pennies we throw (the change) into something to keep them out of the cash drawers."

Reza invited Northbrae volunteers back to his basement to sort and move more pennies — 300 pounds worth in one fell swoop.

"We were a little worried about getting the car up and out of the driveway," said Thede.

Free labor

Northbrae staff turned to Mechanics Bank to help sort and roll the coins. The bank volunteered a counting machine and labor to turn the loose loot into something negotiable. That's when they knew they had more than \$1,500 on their hands — a nice gift for the women and children of the Women's Daytime Drop-in Center.

■ **How to help:** To add your two cents (or more), call 510-526-4336. Northbrae Properties is at 1600 Hopkins at McGee in north Berkeley.



NORTHBRAE PROPERTIES OWNER Anita Thede (right) presents penny drive proceeds to WDDC board member Margaret A. ... executive director Linda Lazzareschi.

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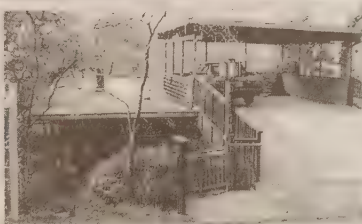


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SPORTS

JV

Friday, December 17, 1999

Section C

Soccer Berkeley boys off to a great start [C2]

Arts Seeking back-to-the-land utopia, 1840s style [C3]

Jackets find out hoops' Who's Who

No. 14 nationally-ranked Berkeley takes on country's best teams for top spot

By Peter Mentor

Gene Nakamura sat in the stands at the CIF State Basketball Championships at the Arco Arena in Sacramento last year watching.

Nakamura's Berkeley High School team, headed by St. Mary's College recruit Coriel Davis, had been eliminated by Archbishop Mitty, 61-53, in the Northern California finals.

Mitty ended up winning the Division I state title by beating Pacific Palisades, 49-48, to complete a perfect 32-0 season. A last-second shot by Palisades fell short to complete the slim win for Mitty.

Berkeley, which finished at 26-6, could only look to the future. The future is now.

Berkeley is ranked No. 14 in the United States in the USA Today Super 25 girls basketball prep poll. The Yellowjackets head to Southern California this weekend to play in the Tournament of Champions at U.C. Santa Barbara. This is the best high school girls basketball tournament in the nation by far with the winner all but guaranteed the No. 1 national ranking.

"We are in the toughest bracket. Whoever wins four games will be the number-one team in the nation."

— Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura

tional ranking.

"Of the 16 teams in the national invitational tournament, 15 are ranked nationally," said Nakamura. "We are in the toughest bracket. Whoever wins four games will be the number-one team in the nation."

Berkeley (3-0) opens against No. 4 ranked Copperas Cove (8-0) of Texas today in the opener. Copperas Cove already has a win over Mansfield (11-1), which

See JACKETS, Page C2



ERICA MCGLASTON, center, signs a letter of intent to the University of Nevada-Reno. Standing behind her is coach Gene Nakamura.



ERICA MCGLASTON can now focus on her high school season after signing her college letter of intent. She joins teammate Aisha Hollans as one of two on the team who have made the decision to sign early.

Early signings make state title the focus

Berkeley's McGlaston, Hollans sign hoops scholarships to Division I colleges

By Peter Mentor

The waiting is over and everyone is happy. Berkeley High seniors Erica McGlaston and Aisha Hollans signed NCAA Division I college scholarships before the high school girls basketball season even started.

Now the two just have to worry about playing their final year and getting good grades to go with it. The biggest goal, instead of the individual accomplishments and impressing scouts, is winning a Division I state high school basketball

championship

McGlaston is going to the University of Nevada-Reno, while Hollans has signed with the University of Southern California.

For Berkeley High coach Gene Nakamura, the signings are a blessing.

"If they are pretty sure where they are going I encourage them to sign early," said Nakamura. "You get coaches calling at all hours. It's tiresome and annoying."

McGlaston, who wants to be a police officer, liked the fact that she can drive

See SIGNINGS, Page C2

Gauchos riding up tough Hill

Jamal Hill a leader for defending NorCal champions, but it's not going to be easy

By Scott Strain

The El Cerrito boys basketball team probably won't repeat as the Northern California Division III champions this season, but it doesn't mean the young Gauchos won't be competitive. They will.

El Cerrito started out 2-0 with victories in over Hogan and Pinole Valley, then lost 69-50 at home to an experienced Berkeley team. The Gauchos (4-3) have gone 2-3 since then and recently finished sixth in the tough Chris Vontouré Classic at De La Salle High school.

In that tournament, which ended last Saturday, they battled Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League rival St. Joseph down to the wire before losing 74-69.

There will be a lot of games that end that way this season for EC — every game will be a battle. They lost star player Andrew Gooden to Kansas and

Jovan Harris to St. Mary's. With these two players, the Gauchos were great last year. Without them, they will be good this year.

"We have a young team that is learning a new system," said coach Brent Daniels, who is in his first year as the head coach at El Cerrito. "It will take some time, but we will be competitive. We just have to be patient."

How far EC goes will depend upon how senior 6-foot-4 guard Jamal Hill plays. Hill is a returning starter from last year's team and has already signed a letter of intent to play for Eastern Washington. He had a big game against St. Joseph, scoring 34 points on a variety of shots. He had 18 in the loss to Berkeley.

Hill is one of just three seniors on the team. The other two are 6-6 forward Ronnie Lang and 5-10 guard Billy Hill. All

See GAUCHOS, Page C2

Defense a pivotal factor for EC boys soccer

By Mike McGreehan

El Cerrito High School boys soccer coach Fred Gonzalez enters the 1999-2000 season with a relatively young and inexperienced team.

As such, the Gauchos will have a tough road to hoe in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

"We should be in the middle of the pack," Gonzalez predicts. "Only three seniors start. We have a lot of underclassmen, we have a lot of new people. Right now, we also have about 10 people out because of injuries."

In spite of their injuries and relative youth, the Gauchos have not performed badly.

They opened this week at 5-4 overall and 2-0 in the ACCAL. Gonzalez has 25 players on varsity, though some of them will see little playing time.

Two of the key seniors this season are Matthew Kucera and Marcos Sanchez. Kucera is the team captain and anchors the midfield.

Sanchez is valuable both at goal-keeper or at forward.

When Sanchez is playing at forward, junior Kevin Dinneen takes over in goal.

"Right now, both are pretty new to the

position," Gonzalez says of his two keepers. "They both played it a long time ago and are just returning to it. We usually start Marcos back there because he is a senior."

Helping either Sanchez or Dinneen defensively will be sweeper Erik Franks and outside backs Richard Greenlee and Conrad Lilhanand. Look for either Daniel Pangelina or James McDermott to man the stopper position.

Cesar Vasquez plays central midfield with Luis Garcia and Jonathan Klaassen on his wings.

The forward line will feature some combination of Evan Horowitz, Dan Margalit, Jun Ho Lee and Sanchez.

"We have a rotating system out there," Gonzalez says of his forwards.

The ACCAL, though not the strongest league in the North Coast Section, is still one of the most competitive. There is no clear-cut favorite for the league title and any number of teams is expected to compete for the top spot. El Cerrito could be one of those teams. Still, a midrange projection is probably most realistic.

"We have a pretty young team, and were in a pretty tough league with Richmond, Kennedy, Piedmont, Alameda and Salesian," says Gonzalez. "If we play better defense, we might get higher."

Cougars aiming sky high

Albany boys soccer predicts league title

By Mike McGreehan

Albany High School's boys soccer team looks to make a dent in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League this season.

Though the Cougars didn't play any preseason matches, they are 1-0 in ACCAL play and appear confident and strong.

"We lost only three seniors from last year, so it's pretty much the same team with only a few younger kids," says coach Donny McGuire. "The team is strong. It has a lot of depth. I picked 20 players and any 11 of them could start. Off the bench, I'm really strong."

Last year the team finished with an 8-2-3 record, concluding the season with a 2-1 loss to Kennedy in the league semifinals.

Albany's depth is most evident in the midfield with eight players in the mix. They are: Morgan Corbell, Andre Abreu, Alan Bernales, Robert Diaz, Joe McGinnis, Julio Reyes, Peter Waugh and Jaime Yanez.

The Cougars promise to have a strong defense in any combination of Billy Bennett, Carlos Reyes, David Kessler, Adam Phillips, Chris Chin and John Holson.

Up front, forwards Garrett Pock, Bryan Gross, Rigzin Nanyang and Kardo Josayma lead a potent attack.

Albany's depth is even evident at goal-keeper, where starter David Avila-Silver is ably backed up by Spencer K'Burg.

In addition to depth, McGuire says his team has good chemistry. The only possible shortcoming he could think of, though, was that some of the players occasionally will go off on individual tangents.

In most soccer circles, some degree of individual flair is encouraged. But such virtuosity must take place within the framework of the team. A delicate balancing act, indeed.

"That's the mark of a great player," says McGuire, "to know when you can (go solo) and when you shouldn't."

Last Friday, the Cougars had their match with Richmond postponed. On Wednesday, they were to play St. Mary's. Today, Albany will host Alameda at Cougar field.

So how does McGuire foresee his team faring in the ACCAL?

"I see us winning the league or going to the postseason with Richmond," he said.

Albany stops St. Mary's in girls soccer

Mayers' competitive fire key for Cougars

By Mike McGreehan

A sprinkling of youth with a heavy dose of experience should bode well for the Albany High School girls soccer team this year.

Eight seniors and five juniors make up the bulk of the Cougars' 18-player roster. But the team also has a pair of promising freshmen and three sophomores for added help.

First-year coach Gina Gambogi is expecting good things from her team, which kicked off its ACCAL season last week. Albany improved to 3-0 in the ACCAL and 4-1 overall after dusting St. Mary's 8-0 Wednesday afternoon.

Center forward Leifa Mayers, who leads the Cougars in both goals and assists, scored a hat trick.

"She's a natural leader, very skilled," Gambogi says of Mayers, a senior.

See COUGARS, Page C2

Arts

Oakland's 'Nutcracker' is fantasy, magic incarnate

Marvelous footwork, beautiful costumes, lovely sets and beautiful live music — this ballet's a treat

By Anita Amirrezvani

DANCE REVIEW

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 ■ **HOW MUCH:** \$7-\$39
 ■ **CALL:** 762-BASS

branches bathed in a beautiful bluish light. And finally, in Act 2, we emerge into the Kingdom of Sweets with the help of several lavish backdrops, including one of Russian towers of chocolate surrounded by pink roses dripping with pearls. Fantasy, here we come!

The choreography, by artistic director emeritus Ronn Guidi, never loses sight of the particular yearnings of childhood. Marie, danced by Jenny Anolin, and her siblings Louise (Corinne Jung) and Fritz (Eduardo Garcia) start off the fun by scrambling to get a closer look at their presents. Anolin successfully conveys the love, disappointment and hope of young girlhood in scenes where she weeps over her broken Nutcracker and helps him win the battle with the Rat King (Carlo Sierras). Her reward, of course, is the af-

See NUTCRACKER, Page C4



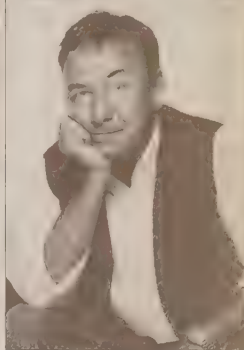
TAKE A BREAK from the hustle and bustle: Let the Oakland Ballet's "Nutcracker" soothe and delight you.

HOT SHEET!

■ Bella Musica Chorus and Orchestra presents two concerts — "Te Deum" and "Missa Luba" — at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, and at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19, at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley. Call 510-525-5393.

■ Alta Bates Medical Center Art Gallery presents "Hand and Voice: A Digital Art Exhibit at the Millennium," at 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, through Jan. 8. Call 510-524-4966.

EVENTS



WILL DURST, a Bay Area political pundit and TV host, presents "The Big-Fat-Year-End-Kiss-Off Comedy Show VII" at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets \$15. Call 925-798-1300

Berkeley Ballet Company — "The Nutcracker Suite," closing Dec. 19. An amazing journey begins when a young girl joins her family and friends at a holiday party and is given a nutcracker by her godfather. Tickets: \$15. Dec. 17, 7 p.m.; Dec. 12, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Dec. 18, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 19, 2 p.m. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-843-4689.

Berkeley City Ballet — "The Nutcracker," music by Tchaikovsky, closing Dec. 19, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. An amazing journey begins when a young girl joins her family and friends at a holiday party and is given a nutcracker by her godfather. Tickets: \$18 general, \$15 seniors and children. Jackson Theater, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Call 510-659-6031.

Cal Performances — "The Hard Nut," closing Dec. 19. The Mark Morris Dance Group presents a retake on the classic "Nutcracker" ballet. Admission: \$24-\$48. Wednesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m.; Dec. 18, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft and Telegraph Avenues, Berkeley. Call 510-642-9888, or 510-762-BASS.

Oakland Ballet — "Nutcracker," closes Dec. 24. An amazing journey begins when a young girl joins her family and friends at a holiday party and is given a nutcracker by her godfather.

Tickets: \$7-\$31. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.; Dec. 17, 7 p.m.; Dec. 21, 2 p.m.; Dec. 22 and Dec. 24, 11 a.m.; Dec. 23, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Call 510-465-6400 or 510-762-BASS.

First Congregational Church — "An Italian Baroque Christmas," Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Warren Stewart and Susan Harvey conducting Magnificat Baroque Ensemble in a concert of works by Chiara Margarita Cozzolani. Admission: \$19-\$22. Call 510-528-1725. At 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

First Congregational Church of Oakland — "A Christmas Choral Festival," Dec. 19, 3 p.m. A program featuring the Piedmont Children's Choir, the Urban Harmony Movement, the Bright Morning Star Full Baptist Church Choir, the East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, the First Congregational Church Choir and Robert Weaver and the Weaver Chorus. Tickets: \$7-\$10. 2501 Harrison St., Oakland. Call 415-289-2029.

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of The Ascension — "An International Christmas," Dec. 17, 8 p.m. The As-

See EVENTS, Page C5

Long 'Green Mile' is worth the trip

Hanks brings charm to Stephen King story of life on death row

By Karen Hershenson

Nobody does decent better than Tom Hanks. With his earnest eyes and aw-shucks demeanor, he is a modern-day Jimmy Stewart.

Those qualities shine in "The Green Mile," based on Stephen



PRISON GUARD Paul Edgecomb (Tom Hanks) begins to have doubts about the guilt of convicted child-killer John Coffey (Michael Clarke Duncan) in "The Green Mile," based on horror-meister Stephen King's serialized novel.

their final days before they die in the electric chair.

But don't think this is some schmaltzy holiday release about a do-good prison guard and his loyal

men. Remember, it's a Stephen King story, with all the twists and supernatural elements that implies. It's not horror, but there are horrifying moments along with the deeply moving

and humorous ones.

An ensemble cast, led by Hanks, but including his "Saving Private

See MILE, Page C4

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "The Green Mile"
 ■ **STARRING:** Tom Hanks, David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, Michael Clarke Duncan
 ■ **RATING:** R (violence, language, some sex-related material)
 ■ **RUNNING TIME:** 3 hours
 ■ **WHERE:** Century Oakland 8, Grand Lake Theater, Jack London Cinema, UA Emerybay 10
 ■ **GRADE:** B+

King's serialized novel about a Depression-era Southern prison. Hanks is death row head guard Paul Edgecomb, a compassionate man trying to nurture his doomed charges in

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Seeking back-to-the-land Utopia, 1840s style

Aurora Theater play based on Alcott essay

By J.R. Deaton

In the summer of 1843 Transcendentalists Bronson Alcott and Charles Lane and families moved to a utopian community outside Harvard, Mass., named Fruitlands.

They were to live the chaste life of hard non-mechanized farmwork, no meat, no sugar, no tea, no milk and no chance. Among the Utopian residents was Alcott's 10-year-old daughter Louisa May Alcott, who would later write "Little Women" and other 19th century classics.

From her diaries written during the six months her family struggled to create this New England Eden, Louisa May Alcott later wrote a wry essay about Fruitlands called "Transcendental Wild Oats."

Actress and playwright LeClanche Du Rand has adapted Al-

cott's essay into a play that, with the help of the Aurora Theater Co. in Berkeley, is a fresh and memorable depiction of what happens when high hopes and high ideals, poorly planned, collide with human reality and desire for a nice cup of tea and other unchaste comforts.

In the cramped seating of the Berkeley City Club room that houses the Aurora Theater Co., they plan to move next year to new digs in downtown's Addison Street Arts District, it is easy to imagine how the cramped "consociate family" at Fruitlands felt.

In addition to Bronson and Abby Alcott and their four daughters, and Lane and his son William, various Utopia seekers took up residence for at least part of Fruitlands' existence. Residents included an Adamite, as nudists were called at the time, a man named Adam Woods who went by the reversed name Woods Adam and a woman named Jane Gage, who was sent east of Eden after she ate the tail of a fish at a neighbor's house. One Fruitlands resident had lived one year eating only apples and another year eating only crackers.

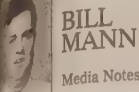
Nineteenth century Transcendentalism was a romantic movement against the Age of Reason and as-

See OATS, Page C4



DAVID ALLEN

JENNY LORD is Louisa May Alcott in Aurora Theatre's world premiere of "Transcendental Wild Oats."



BILL MANN
Media Notes

TV's nature vs. the real thing

We all know that watching nature shows like the ones on PBS (aka "The Animals Eat-Other-Animals Network") is a poor substitute for the real thing, however produced they may be. TV as a reflection of life is a joke, and television's inadequacies are especially glaring when it comes to showing nature.

When this TV critic's TV is off, which it is most of the time, I can go outside my front door in our beautiful little valley and see red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures, a couple of doe and their fawns in our back field, and a gray heron sitting on my neighbor's driveway, lounging in the sun.

Pretty wild, huh? At night, we often hear two great horned owls hooting back and forth. (People think we're joking when we tell them a bird ate our cat, but it actually happened: We lost a grey kitten when the local great horned a few years ago. Opossums regularly peer in our door that leads out to the deck. We live in a de facto nature preserve, and my wife is a docent at a local preserve near Jack London's final home in Glen Ellen; she leads school kids on nature hikes.

I mention all this only to establish that I'm no stranger to nature. Still, I wasn't prepared for the level Three experience I recently had.

Oddly and ironically enough, it was partly inspired by the co-star of that silly old animal sitcom, "Mr. Ed."

I met Edna Skinner, who played the next-door neighbor Kay Addison in the talking-horse series, through mutual friend a while back. Skinner is a bright and formidable woman in her late 70s who grew up around show business and also worked in several movies. She now lives as much distance as she can between herself and Hollywood.

But don't get Skinner, who does not suffer fools lightly, started on "Mr. Ed" star Alan Young; even the mention of his name brings a look of distaste to her face).

Skinner, a widow of some means, spent the last 30 years since the now ended seeking out intense life experiences. She's told me her wonder at swimming with the dolphins in Hawaii, of having a lion down next to her jeep in Tanzania. This is what Skinner does with her post-TV (i.e., real) life. It has given her life substance and meaning, something she says neither TV nor the movies offered her. Skinner now lives on the Oregon coast.

I've heard Skinner's exotic life stories on a few occasions; they are always well-told. Skinner, who is passionate about saving wildlife and has given much of her fortune to that worthy cause, is forever in search of what my wife calls "peak nature experiences." (What I referred to earlier as Level Three.)

I've seen some beautiful natural sights — I grew up in Hawaii in the 1950s when it was still paradise — but I'd never had one as intense as what I saw last weekend.

And I'd never connected personally to the kinds of experiences Skinner goes to describe. And the experience was as unexpected as its location was unlikely — right next to Interstate 5, 15 miles north of Sacramento.

"You can't really go out and just stumble across these (peak nature) experiences," Skinner once told me. "You usually have to go with a guide, someone who sets the scene for you, someone who knows these animals and what you might witness. Still, when it happens, you're always surprised anyway. And you are always touched deeply."

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is located just off I-5 north of the small town of Willow. We've driven past it many times on the way up to Portland. But I'd never seen inside the federally managed bird preserve until the other day. My wife and I were with a small, low-key group of "birders" and an ultra-knowledgeable guide named John who has an encyclopedia knowledge of birds (and especially raptors) and an unbridled enthusiasm for observing our feathered friends. A dilettante birder at best, I've participated in the annual Audubon bird count on New Year's day a couple of times, which I thought this trip to the SNWR would be much like that. I underestimated what I was about to experience.

Seeing the massive lift-off of 1000 snow geese at dawn is some-

See MANN, Page C4

BUSINESS TIDINGS

BY ANA LUISA QUINONEZ

Send me BUSD information or photographs to the Berkeley Voice by 5 p.m. for publication in the following week's newspaper. Phone (510) 339-4053, or e-mail: aguinonez@cctimes.com

BERKELEY PTA COUNCIL: www.bpta.simplenet.com
BHS PTA NEWSLETTER: www.bhs.berkeley.k12.ca.us
BUSD ON THE WEB: www.berkeley.k12.ca.us
SUBSCRIBE TO BHS EMAIL-TREE: bhs@idion.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL 644-6280

A web site has been developed for the King Middle School web site. You can look at it at www.simplenet.com/milking/index.html. Many thanks to Servando Gonzalez (a functional technician at King) and parents Dan Brekke, Paul Gee, and Roy Nierenberg for their efforts and interest in making this site a reality.

NETBALLS NEEDED
 The sixth grade girls basketball team needs some women's size basketballs (indoor/outdoor type, or similar diameter) for practices and to take home for working out over the Holiday break. New or used, they'll take \$20.00 each. For your information, new balls cost about \$25.00 each. For more details, contact volunteer Coach Iris Starr at unstarr@earthlink.net, or call 644-1252.

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL 644-6121

TEACHERS NEEDED
 The College Counseling Office is needed. Parents are needed who will help set up the scholarship files, catalogue collections, duplication, filing, video information files, and information packets. The specific duties involved are:
 (1) First of student records; organize and label the ACT, NCAA, SAT and AP records; re-stock the supplies in the storeroom. (2) Video Library: update the file, create a database of available items with sign-out sheet (3) Catalogue Collections - Send out post cards/requests to increase the number of collections. (4) Catalogue Collections - Send out post cards/requests to increase the number of collections. (5) Sign-in - create a sign-in form for each folder; create a sign-in that contains check-out and check-in for Seniors only. (6) Bulletin of all scholarships with deadlines and requirements; send out information via e-tree; and maintain files. (7) Junior Files - Do an e-tree search for private college web pages to be placed in a database; help prepare Junior Packets for Junior College Night.

Times for volunteer work are: 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday. If you would like to assist, please call college advisor Barbara Mitchell at 644-6121.

SCHOOL NEWS FACULTY AND STAFF
 Loretta Johnson has been named Budget Analyst. Johnson comes to BHS in an administrative position at the district level. Michel Patterson will come to the administrative staff on Jan. 3 from Fontana, in southern California, to fill the position of Freshman Dean.

The counseling department is now short a counselor as Guillermo Barcenas has been named Interim Vice-Principal, although he will continue to counsel the seniors until this fall. The school hopes to hire one counseling intern and one new science teacher. Science teacher Kate Haber is on maternity leave and the school is seeking a replacement. Science teacher Dr. Charles Martin is also on leave and will be replaced by Dennis Fagaly. Gloria Clarke continues as Interim Secretary.

BERKELEY PTA COUNCIL

FAMILY NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA
 The PTA Council, in collaboration with the BUSD, City of Berkeley, Berkeley Public Library, League of Women Voters, Berkeley School Volunteers, and In the Community is bringing a series of "Family Nights" to the community to support families in their children's learning. The first "Family Night" is on Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m., at Malcolm X School on King Street at Ashby Avenue. Free. Fun family event is a great way to increase reading skills and enjoyment. Middle Schoolers are invited to participate by reading Harry Potter to their kids. "Thunder", the Golden State Warriors team mascot will be coming to read to kids. Mayor Shirley Dean will come and read to kids. All families are invited to read to their kids at home and help their kids learn to read. Kids will get a free book. There is a free dinner and lots of prizes. For more information call the PTA Council, 647-5219, 849-2683 or Berkeley Kids Read 644-6618. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call Cynthia Papermaster at 849-2683.

BERKELEY ADULT SCHOOL 644-6784

PARENTING TEENS CLASSES
 Berkeley Adult School is offering six Thursday night sessions to parents of teens who are having specific problem areas that families deal with: drug and alcohol abuse, communication, sex, depression, violence, and anger management. Sessions are on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Berkeley Adult School, 10 University Avenue, Room 103. These will be informal discussion groups by Bonnie Baldwin (Lic. # MFC 35751). There will be hot beverages and refreshments served. For more information, call (925) 472-9782 or e-mail tee@bjsong.com.

BERKELEY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEERS 644-8833

2000 ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Berkeley School Volunteers (BSV) provides, and manages volunteers, and acts as the Berkeley public schools. BSV is responsible for the recruitment, placement, recognition, and evaluation of volunteers. All new volunteers must plan to attend one of the orientations to learn more about volunteering in Berkeley schools. The orientation includes registration, Berkeley schools information, volunteer opportunities, and tips for a successful volunteer experience. Orientations are held at 1835 Allston Way, Berkeley. No reservations are required. Orientation dates: Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 11, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 2, 4 to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 10, 4:30 to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 16, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 29, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Monday, March 1, 4:30 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, March 14, 2 to 3:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 23, 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Wednesday, March 29, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, April 4, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Wednesday, April 12, 4:30 to 6 p.m.; Monday, April 17, 4 to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 27, 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Wednesday, May 31 to 2:30 p.m.

THE CLASSROOM

If you want a "hands-on" experience, working directly with students during the day, then Classroom volunteering provides an opportunity to serve as a tutor or teacher's aide under the supervision of a credentialed teacher. Volunteers are placed in one classroom, based on their preferences, and are utilized in all grades (from preschool through high school) and in a variety of subjects. Duties include: 1:1 student-tutoring, small group assistance, and special projects. Classroom volunteers must commit to a regular schedule, working in the classroom at least once a week.

SCHOOL TUTOR
 If you can give an hour or so, after school from 3 to 4 p.m., one or more days a week (except Friday), many students could use your help in completing their homework assignments. The greatest need is in the middle schools, but help is needed in all grades as well.

ART SPEAKER

Add your name to the database of speakers who are willing to go into classrooms and share experiences with students. Speakers share information about their careers and professions, give lectures about their particular areas of expertise, provide motivational testimonies, and "personalize" the presentation of curriculum.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

If you are interested in helping to keep campuses attractive places of learning, assistance is needed at randomly-scheduled and ongoing events which utilize volunteers in school maintenance. Tasks might include cleaning, repairing, painting, or gardening. These projects are great for folks who are looking for a one-time event, who want to work as a large group, and who want to have a lasting service.

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATION, 2134 M.L.K. Jr. Way, Council Chambers

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings subject to change

Advisory Committee: Every first Thursday, 7 p.m.

Bilingual District Advisory Committee: Every third Tuesday, 7 p.m.

School Site Council: Each school sets the meeting time

CATE Committee: TBA

CHMUR, 2955 Claremont Avenue, 644-6410

Meeting Box, Thursday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for details.

LOOKING AHEAD - NO SCHOOL

Monday, December 20 through Friday, December 31

Winter Recess (K-12)

Events

FROM PAGE C3

cension Liturgical Choir presents a holiday concert with the Prometheus Symphony and the Chancel Ringers.

Free admission. Ascension Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. Call 510-531-3400.

Patten College — "The Night Before Christmas," Dec. 24, 8 p.m. A musical drama presented by the Patten College Symphonette with the

Christian Cathedral and the Patten Academy players.

Free. Christian Cathedral, 2433 Coolidge Ave., Oakland. Call 510-533-8300.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church — "Looking Forward, Looking Back," Dec. 17, 8 p.m. A Christmas concert by the San Francisco Choral Artists. Tickets: \$17 general; \$14 seniors and students. Call 415-979-5779.

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," Dec. 19, 4:30 p.m. With Music Director George Emblom.

At 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Call 510-845-0888.

Gaia Bookstore — Mickey Hart, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. The author will discuss his book of music "Spirit Into Sound: The Magic of Music."

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Winter Sol-

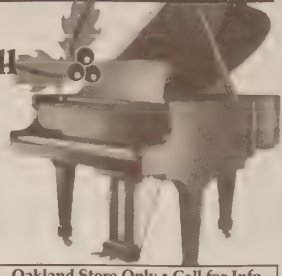
stice: Myths, Rituals and Mysteries," Dec. 19, 1 p.m. A workshop to learn the myths, rituals and folklore of ancient cultures with Ellie Fidler and Julia Butterfly Hill. \$20.

"Candlelight Solstice Ritual," Dec.

See EVENTS, Page C6

HUGE HOLIDAY SALE

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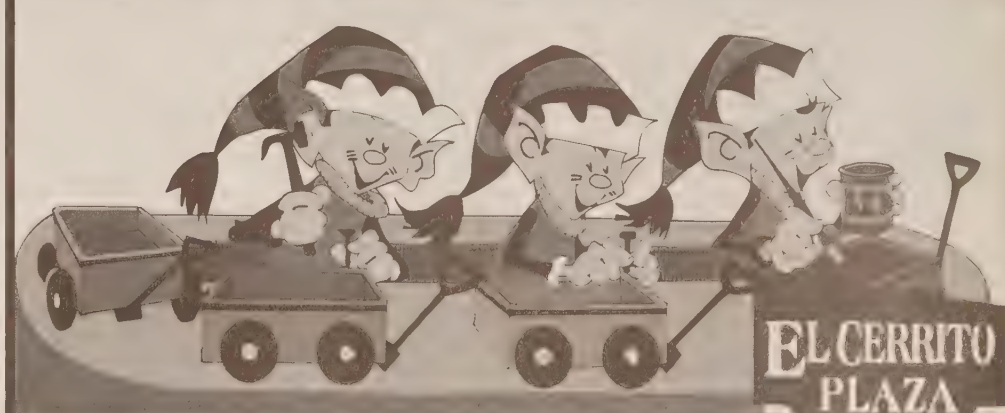
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Events

FROM PAGE C5

21, 7:30 p.m. Celebrate the Divine Universe with astrologer Jacqueline Lasahn. \$10.

\$3; free if author's book is purchased. 1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, (510) 848-GAIA or (510) 548-4172.

The Second annual Zoolights at The Oakland Zoo — through Jan. 2. Zoolights features 100 glowing creations built specially for the Oakland Zoo. From a huge neon volcano erupting with light to colorful dinosaurs, lions and tigers and brightly colored birds, the various scenes may be viewed from the Zoolights Trail or from the new Holiday Train.

In addition, there is a children's carnival area and the "Holiday Village," at the Children's Zoo which has been transformed with gingerbread men, candy canes, toy soldiers, gumdrop trees and many other goodies all ablaze with holiday colors.

Proceeds from Zoolights benefit youth education and animal preservation at the Oakland Zoo.

Tickets: \$5 general, \$3 children age 2-14; free children under age 2. One train ride ticket with each ticket. Open daily, 5:30-9 p.m., weather permitting. At Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. Call 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

Bay Area Historic House Museums Christmas Activities — through Jan. 2.

THE CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE — through Dec. 29. The stately, 1876 Italianate-style home is the last Victorian house on Lake Merritt's shore. Its five period rooms will be decorated for Christmas with the highlight being its 12-foot-tall Christmas tree festooned with garlands, handmade cornucopias, antique ornaments, baskets of nuts and American flags. At 14th Street and Lakeside Drive, Oakland. Wednesday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$4 general, \$2 seniors, \$1 juniors age 12-18; free children under age 12. Call 510-444-1876.

THE COHEN BRAY HOUSE CHRISTMAS TEA AND TOUR — Jan. 2, 1-4 p.m. Built for A.A. Cohen in 1884, the elaborate farmhouse contains original family furnishings and will be decorated for the holidays with Christmas trees, garlands and ornaments including a 12-foot-tall tree. Tea sittings are on the hour between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Reservations required. At Victorian Preservation Center of Oakland, 1440 29th St., Oakland. Admission: \$20 gen-

eral; \$15 seniors and youths. Call 510-843-2906.

DUNSMUIR HOUSE — through Dec. 19. This impressive 37-room mansion with its Tiffany-style dome will be decorated with elegant ornaments, holiday trees, garlands and wreaths. The estate offers house tours, holiday carriage rides, stilt-walkers, puppet shows, caroling and food. Lunch and/or tea offered by reservations. At 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. Tickets: \$12 general, \$11 seniors, \$8 juniors age 6-13; free children under age 6. Call 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.com

THE PARDEE HOUSE — through Dec. 31. The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to California Governor Pardee and three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland.

The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn and will be decorated with 1890s holiday decorations. At 672 11th St., Oakland. Friday and Saturday, noon; Closed Dec. 25. Tickets: \$5 general; free children under age 12. Call 510-444-2187.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Candlelight Tour, Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 6:30-8 p.m. Tour the house by candlelight and see it as the occupants did. Seasonal refreshments served in the Carriage House. Reservations required. Tickets: \$8 general; \$4 children. Call 510-581-0223.

Santa's Village on Solano — through Dec. 23. The village is filled with live Christmas trees decorated by local merchants and filled with treats for everyone, running trains and lighted Victorian houses. Santa will be there to have his picture taken with you and your children. In addition there will be Victorian carolers, Cajun Christmas music, Dixieland holiday sounds and stiltwalking elves.

Free. Thursday and Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., 1236 Solano Ave., Albany. Call 510-527-5358.

The 28th annual Berkeley Pottery Guild Winter Holiday Sale — "Y2K," through Dec. 23. Nineteen professional guild members will display current works throughout their complex of open studios, offering among other things dinnerware, sushi platters, tile murals, vases, Russian teapots, architectural and garden sculpture, lanterns, fountains, jewelry and playful ceramic responses to the millennium.

Free admission. Saturday and

Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 13 through Dec. 23: daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Berkeley Pottery Guild, 731 Jones St., Berkeley. Call 510-524-7031 or www.BerkeleyPotters.com

Holiday Magic at City Center in Oakland — through Dec. 22. There will be a large decorated Christmas tree on City Stage and strolling Victorian-era carolers serenading shoppers at lunchtime.

Piano Concerts, through Dec. 22. Concerts of holiday music. In the Atrium Lobby, 1111 Broadway. Monday and Wednesday, 1 p.m.; Friday, 5 p.m.

SPCA Pet Adoptions, through Dec. 17. Cats and dogs will be available for adoption and experts will be on hand to answer pet-related questions. In the vacant lot next to Max's Diner, City Center Plaza. Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free admission. City Center, between 12th and 14th streets and between Broadway and Clay Street, Oakland. Call 510-865-5100.

"A Centennial Christmas at Dunsmuir" — through Dec. 19. Dunsmuir Historic Estate celebrates its 100th birthday this Christmas. The 37-room mansion will be elegantly decorated with gold as the theme. Faberge eggs and moon and stars motifs will be carried out in some rooms and the exterior will be decked out in hundreds of garlands and wreaths and thousands of twinkle lights. There will be caroling on the mansion veranda, carriage rides, holiday teas and lunches, visits with Father Christmas, a craft vendors marketplace and children's activities each day. It will take two to three hours to enjoy the Dunsmuir experience. Wear warm clothing and comfortable walking shoes. No high heels or photography is permitted inside the Mansion. Proceeds from the Christmas event benefit Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Holiday Tea," through Dec. 19. Tea will consist of assorted tea sandwiches, a selection of sweets, fresh baked scones and fruit breads and the special Dunsmuir Holiday Blend tea. Reservations required. In Dinkelspiel House. Friday, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets: \$18.

Father Christmas Visiting Hours, through Dec. 19. On the Mansion Veranda. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, noon-1:30 p.m.; 2:30-3:30 p.m.

The Holiday Tent, through Dec. 19. Here there will be a noon fixed price luncheon as well as an a la carte menu of sandwiches, soups and hot beverages. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 general, \$11 seniors, \$8 juniors age 6-13; free children under age 6. Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. Call 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

REI Berkeley — through Dec. 18. A series of lectures on hikes and outdoors equipment. Skiing the Sierra Backcountry, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. A slide/presentation by Robert S.P. Parker and Todd Vogel of Sierra Mountain Center in Bishop on the many ways one can explore the East

side of the Sierras for some fine backcountry skiing.

"Point Reyes Visions," Dec. 18, 2-4 p.m. Photographer Richard Blair and author Kathleen Goodwin will share some of what went into the making of their book "Point Reyes Visions" as well as autograph copies of the book, a remarkable collection of photographs and essays.

Free admission. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-527-4140.

Berkeley Art Center — "Stay Tuned: The Revolution Will Be Broadcast," closing Dec. 18. An ex-

hibit of documents from the Pacifica Struggle of the 1960s. **SPECIAL EVENT** — Dec. 18, 2-4 p.m. The authors will be on hand from their two recent books. Free. Wednesday through Friday, noon-5 p.m. 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. Call 510-844-6961.

Berkeley ArtCenter — through Dec. 18. A guided tour with an opportunity to meet the artists. See EVENT

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Events

FROM PAGE C6

See artists and see working craft studios of over 100 Berkeley artisans. For a map of the artisans' studios, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Berkeley Artisans Map, 1250 Addison St., 214, Berkeley, CA 94702. Or pick up a map at the same address.

Free admission. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Berkeley. Call 510-845-2612.

Creative Growth Art Center — "The Last Picture Show," through Jan. 14. An annual exhibit of drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, art furniture and rugs. Free admission. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 355 24th St., Oakland. Call 510-836-2340.

East Bay Municipal Utility District — Mohsen Janatpour, through Dec. 28. An exhibit of paintings. Free admission. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Oakland Administration Building, Second Floor Lobby, 11th St., Oakland. Call 650-574-0272.

Graduate Theological Union — Collaborations: A Spiritual Inter-esse, closing Dec. 22. An exhibit of works exploring issues of gender, sexuality and the socio-political world by Ira and Corliss Lesser. "Resilient Psyche: Representations of Women in German Expressionist Prints," closing Dec. 20. An exhibit of prints made between 1903 and 1924. Free. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-7 p.m. Flora Lamson Hewitt Library, 2400 Ridge Rd., Berkeley. Call 510-649-2541.

Christensen Heller Gallery — Kim Smith, through Feb. 29. An exhibit of paintings.

Hugo Reichmuth, through Feb. 29. An exhibit of custom furniture. Free admission. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5

p.m. At 5831 College Ave., Oakland. Call 510-655-5952.

John F. Kennedy university — "Trees and Rhizomes," closing Dec. 17. An exhibit of recent paintings by Holly Cratty.

Free admission. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Arts and Consciousness Gallery, JFK University Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-649-0499.

Laney College — Photography Faculty Show, through Jan. 27. An exhibit by Roger Bowman, Jr., Mark Downey, Dean Freeman, John Lodato and Sandy Lombardi.

Free admission. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Art Gallery, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. Call 510-464-3586.

Mills College — "Tom Marioni: Trees and Birds, Drawings 1969-1999," through Dec. 30. An exhibit of process drawings.

"William E. Dassonville: California Photographer 1879-1957," through Dec. 30. An exhibit of landscape photographs.

"The 100 Languages of Children," through October, 2000. An exhibit of art by children from Reggio Emilia, Italy. At Carnegie Building Bender Room. Call 510-430-3105.

Free admission. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Call 510-430-2164.

La Pena Cultural Center — "Weathering the Storm," through Jan. 30. An exhibit of paintings and mixed media by TSAK. In Cafe Lobby.

Artist Reception, Dec. 10, 7 p.m. "Vitalidad Cubana 1999," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of photographs by Stefan Cohen. In Cultural Room.

"Vieques, P.R.," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of photographs by Kahil Jacobs-Fantauzzi. In Cultural Room. Free admission. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-849-2568.

Royal Ground Gallery — "New Perspectives," through Jan. 2. An exhibit of paintings, sculpture and pho-

tography by six artists.

Free admission. Daily, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd. Montclair District, Oakland. Call 510-339-0348.

Strawberry Creek Design Center Holiday Open Studios — closing Dec. 19. Eighteen artists and craftspeople open their studios, showing lamps, furniture, floorcloths, sculpture, fine art, pottery, art glass, ornaments and jewelry.

Free admission. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 1250 Addison St., Berkeley. Call 510-845-2612.

Traywick Gallery — "Traces: New Drawings," closing Dec. 23. An exhibit of drawings by Amanda Haas, Kim McCarty, Joan Perlman and Susanna Harwood Rubin.

Free. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 1316 10th St., Berkeley. Call 510-527-1214.

Oakland Zoo — African Savanna, ongoing. This zoo territory consists of two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits. See the meerkat family, hyenas, green monkeys and even a savanna monitor.

Visit the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) to see African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world who live in this Oakland hills park. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop.

"Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," is a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for two adult African lions and four young lions.

"Sun Bear Exhibit." See the state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears. The bears' home is designed to challenge the bears mentally as well as physically, forcing them to forage for food much as they would do in the wild. The naturalistic habitat is over an acre in size and includes much pits for exploration, climbing structures, nesting structures, a large pond and rooting machines.

The Siamang Island Exhibit, on-

going. The Island is a state-of-the-art, barrier-free exhibit that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

SPECIAL EVENT — The Second annual Zoolights at the Oakland Zoo, through Jan. 2. Zoolights features 100 glowing creations built specially for the Oakland Zoo. From a huge neon volcano erupting with light to colorful dinosaurs, lions and tigers and brightly colored birds, the various scenes may be viewed from the Zoolights Trail or from the new Holiday Train. In addition there is a children's carnival area and the "Holiday Village," at the Children's Zoo which has been transformed with gingerbread-men, candy canes, toy soldiers, gum-drop trees and many other goodies all ablaze with holiday colors. Proceeds from Zoolights benefit youth education and animal preservation at the Oakland Zoo. Daily admission, 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. (weather permitting). Admission: \$5 general, \$3 children age 2-14; free children under age 2; One train ride ticket with each ticket.

Admission: \$6.50 general; \$3.50 seniors and children ages 2-14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Closed Christmas Day. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. Call 510-632-9525, or visit Web site at www.oakland-zoo.org

UC-Berkeley Botanical Garden — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour.

Tickets: \$3 general, \$2 seniors, \$1 children; free on Thursday. Through Memorial Day; daily, 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, behind Memorial Stadium, a mile below the Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley. Call 510-643-2755.

Barnes And Noble — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. Call 510-272-0120.

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FROM PAGE C8

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The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. Judges depend on volunteer reports to make life changing decisions. To receive an application and information call 268-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.

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Claremont Resort also offers other packages for less than the VIP ultimate

By Corey Lyons

A posh suite with a sensational view of the San Francisco Bay. A five-course meal in a private restaurant. And a New Year's Eve bash held in one of the finest resorts in the country.

Not a bad way to spend a weekend.

In an effort to usher in 2000 with some comfort and class, the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley is offering several special millennium packages for its deep-pocketed guests.

The 2K whopper being pitched from the Claremont is its VIP Package—a three-day, two-night gig in a ritzy Grand Bay View room, which includes a New Year's Eve bash and meals. The tab? \$1,999 per couple.

Claremont's Millennium Package—a notch below the VIP—is \$999 per couple, and includes three days, two nights in rooms without a view of the bay and with only one meal figured into the cost.

About 50 percent of the hotel's rooms are booked for New Year's thus far, Benjamin Emery, reservation manager, said.

Also, the New Year's Eve party—which will include two swing bands and plenty of cocktails—is only about one-third to capacity, Emery said. Party capacity is about 650, he added.

And since demand for the rooms

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and the party have fallen below expectations, he said, a third option to the millennium menu has been added recently.

"We've decided to introduce solo invites to the party at \$399 per couple," Emery said. "With that, they can choose to get a room for between \$235 and \$395. Of course, there is a limited number of seats available."

Guests of the VIP Package will be treated like royalty. Visitors will enjoy a private dinner banquet New Year's Eve inside Jordan's, the hotel's four-diamond signature restaurant. All the alcohol will be free during the feast.

From there, it's off to the millennium soiree. Two swing bands will provide the tunes, one of which will perform at the Terrace Bar.

In addition to the entertainment, VIP guests will receive a \$200 voucher for use at the hotel's spa or retail shops, a welcome bottle of French champagne and unlimited use of the fitness center.

Of course, lodging in a Grand Bay View room—one of 40 luxury suites added to the hotel during its \$6 million expansion effort in 1997—will assuredly make for a memorable weekend, Emery said.

"It's the highest quality room type we have," he said. "We're a historical landmark, so all the rooms are a little different. They're all slightly unique in characteristic."

Still, each is stocked with a 25-inch TV, a VCR and CD player, coffee maker, custom-made furniture and oh, an unrivaled view of the Bay out the window.

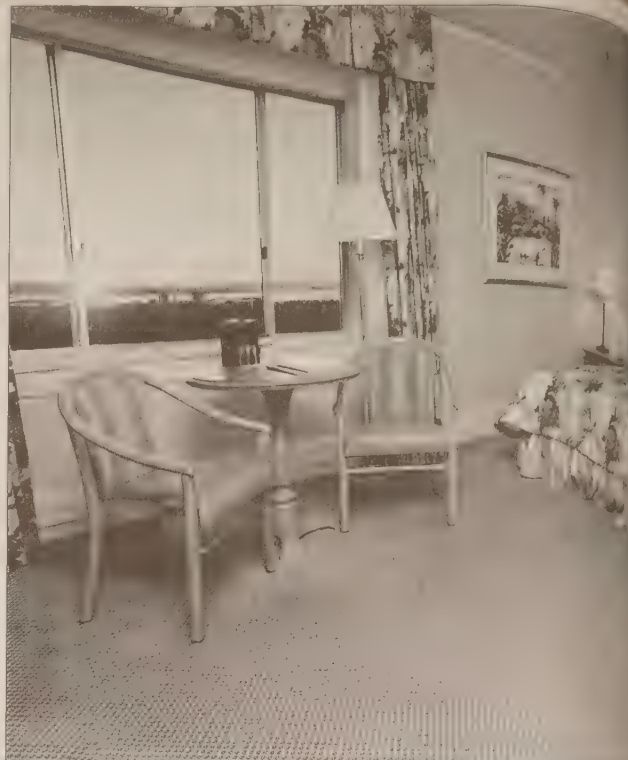
The Millennium Package, obviously, is more limited.

Still, guests will enjoy the same New Year's Eve party and will enjoy a massive buffet dinner in the Empire Room. The buffet will include crab claws on ice, smoked salmon, carved-to-order meats soaked in wine and other treats.

Emery, who joined the Claremont in April 1998 when it was acquired by KSL Recreation Corp., said the hotel's somewhat slow Dec. 31 reservations may be attributed to some strict Bay Area bosses.

"There are a lot of people putting a moratorium on getting people to work through New Year's, especially in the technology industry," he said. "And it has hindered our potential to get clients in here."

"Unfortunately, we'll probably find out what's going to happen a day before (New Year's Eve)."



A GRAND BAY VIEW room at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley

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Emeryville
(510) 658-2555

The Bay Area's finest entertainment venue. Please check our website for our complete entertainment schedule: www.kimballs.com. We are located in the heart of Emeryville at 5800 Shellmound Street, #200. Our phone number is (510) 658-2555 and fax number is (510) 658-3964.

La Creme de la Creme

5362 College Ave.
Oakland
(510) 420-8822

Come join us in celebrating our 18th anniversary. We are featuring some of our signature dishes, including Grilled Jumbo Scallops and Tiger Prawns er Brochettes, Rack of Lamb ala Marechale, Rib-Eye Steak Au Poivre and Fillet Mignon Oscar. Our chef has also prepared an extraordinary Seafood Specials menu for this occasion. Try our award-winning sumptuous desserts, Gateau La Creme and Pear Brioche. You can also enjoy your dining experience in our heated gar-

den patio. Please call (510) 420-8822 for reservations.

The Reef

1000 Embarcadero
Oakland (510) 836-2519

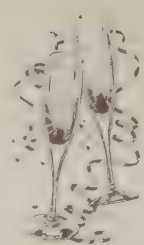
At The Reef restaurant you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary

expertise from the same owners for 18 years. The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking. The Reef Restaurant is located one mile south of Jack London Square off 880 freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

Toast The Season

- Austria • *Prosit*
Belgium • *Op uw gezobeid*
China • *Kan bei; Wen lie*
Czechoslovakia • *Na Zbraviv; Nazdar*
Denmark • *Skal*
England • *Cheers*
Finland • *Rippis; Maljanne*
France • *Santé, A votre santé*
Germany • *Prosit*
Greece • *Eis Igian*
Hebrew • *Lebaim; Mazel too*
Iceland • *Santanka nu*
Ireland • *Slainte*
Italy • *Salute; Cin cin*
Japan • *Kampai; Banzai*
Netherlands • *Proost; Gelueh*
Norway • *Skal*
Poland • *Na zdrowie; Vivat*
Portugal • *A sua saude; Soiva*
Russia • *Na zdorovia*
Scotland • *Hoot mon*
Spain • *Salud*
Sweden • *Skal*
United States • *Cheers*
Yugos avia • *Zivio*

Be responsible this
Holiday Season.
Don't Drink & Drive!



Christmas Week Festivities!

December 21, 7:00
December 22, 3:00
December 23, 3:00 & 7:00
Dickens "A Christmas Carol"
by Julia Morgan Theater Rats
\$10 adults, \$5 kids

Take pictures with
Santa Claus! 2 hrs before
each Christmas Carol perf.

December 31, 7:30
New Year's Eve
Celebration! Singing,
Dancing, Dinner
\$15, \$20, \$25, Dinner: \$12.50

Julia Morgan CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2640 College Avenue, Berkeley
www.juliamorgan.org
call (510) 883-7023 for info

Kimball's East

Bay Area's Best Entertainment Venue
All Shows & 18pm unless otherwise noted

Mint Condition
Dec. 17-18-19
8pm & 10pm

Phil Perry
Dec. 21-22-23
8:00 & 10:00 pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Howard Hewitt
Thurs., Dec. 30 '25 - 8pm
Fri., Dec. 31 '65 - 8pm/10pm \$90
Sat. '27/Sun. '25 - 8pm & 10pm

Norman Brown
Fri, Sat. Jan. 14 & 15 '24
Sun. Jan. 16 '22
8pm & 10pm

\$99 Seder Special
1 Chicken • Preferred Seating
1 Pot Roast • 1 Brioche
1 Dessert • 1 Beverage
1 J&M B&B B&B
26-26667

www.kimballs.com
Emerybay Public Market • Emeryville
Purchase Tickets By Phone MC/VISA
888-888-8888
510-658-2555

La Creme de la Creme

Come enjoy our new French menu
in our garden patio

2 for 1 Entree
Dinner \$12 Maximum
(Valid everyday except for Holidays • Exp. 12/30/99)

5362 College Avenue, Oakland (510) 420-8822
LUNCH Mon-Fri. 11:30am-2pm
BRUNCH Sat. & Sun. 9am-2pm / DINNER Nightly
7 Days from 5pm

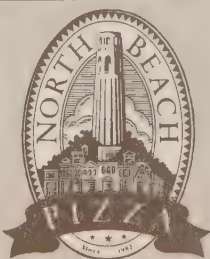


CONTINENTAL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
(510) 836-2519

Fine Dining • Free Parking
Make Reservations for 25 to 90 people
Over the Water By the Boats
In Casual Elegance
• Great Seafood, Steaks
• Same owner for 18 years

Christmas & New Years Eve
Make Reservations Early
Call For Specials

We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express,
Diners Club, Carte Blanche and Discover
1000 Embarcadero, Oakland
1 MILE SOUTH OF JACK LONDON SQUARE



10% OFF
Entire Order
(Not valid with any other offers • Exp. 12/31/99)

San Francisco's
Most Awarded Pizza

NOW IN BERKELEY!

849-9800

FAST FREE DELIVERY
(LIMITED AREAS)

Pizza • Pasta • Salad
Sandwiches
Wine, Beer & More

1598 University Ave.
@ California
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

HAPPY HOUR 1/2 OFF select Bar Appetizers
Monday-Friday 3-7pm Margaritas \$2.75 • Drinks \$2.50 • Miller Draft 1/2

The Cantina on Park

Thursday
Night is
Shooter
Girl Night

Stop in and
say "Hola!"

MILLER Monday (Beer Dogs) ★ TACO Tuesday
WINGIN' Wednesday (10¢ Wings) ★ "LADIES NIGHT" Thursday

4239 Park Blvd., OAKLAND GLENVIEW DISTRICT (510) 482-3663

**CLOSER THAN
MEXICO.**



Chevys
FRESH MEX



ALAMEDA
2400 Mariner Square
510.521.3768

GARIBALDIS
PRESENTS A

**FEATURED
MENU**

FOR
EARLY DINERS
Before 6:45 pm
\$18.95 per person

After 6:45 pm \$21.95 per person
SUN - WED NIGHTS

5356 College
510 595 4000

For information on the Dining & Entertainment Guide,
call Duke Reedy at (510) 339-4036

--PUBLIC NOTIFICATION --

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE
NLS No. GM-9170-Loan No. 310246816 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT OF YOUR OBLIGATION UNDER INSTALMENT SALES PLAN NO. 17JUS-INSTALMENT 8 24-84 N.E. PROJECT "LIFE" LIFE PROTECT "LIFE" MAY BE SOLED BY PUBLIC AUCTION TO SATISFY AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARANTEE COMPANY AGAINST YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

The highest bidder for cash, or cash equivalent drawn on a check or national bank or federal reserve bank or federal savings bank or state or federal savings and loan association, shall receive title to the property described herein. The Code and authorized to do business in this state will be trustee. The sale will be made without benefit of appraisal or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or condition of the undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the address or other information appearing hereon. I, the undersigned TRUSTOR CARLOS JENAVIAR AND MARCELINA JENAVIAR, hereby certify that I have Read and Understood the Book 15318, page 653 of Official Records in the office of the County Clerk of Santa Costa County, California, dated and recorded at 10:00 AM Place of Sale AT THE COURT STREET ENVIRONMENT COURT HOUSE, 75 COURT STREET, SANTA COSTA COUNTY, MARTINEZA Property Address 1000 AVENUE RICHMOND, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95131-0095. The total amount secured by said installment publication of this notice is \$10,000.00. The total amount of the unpaid balance (including costs, expenses, interest and reasonable estimated costs, expenses) as of the date of time of initial publication of this notice, is \$10,000.00.

EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES - MISSION BLVD SUITE #208 MISSION HILLS, CA 91344 DONNA TITTON ASAP74524

Legal E/Certario Journal 0182
Publish December 3, 10, 17

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE - SALE
TAXS, No. 95-071632 Loan No.
9500729 TSG No. 381662
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: I HEREBY
REVEAL A DEED OF TRUST,
DATED 03/31/1997, UNLESS
THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE, I DO NOT
TESTIFY YOUR PROPERTY, IT
MAY BE SOLD AS A FUEL
PROPERTY. THE PURPOSE AND EXPLA-
NATION OF THE NATURE
OF THE DEED OF TRUST IS
AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD
CONTACT A LAWYER, NO
OTHER PERSONS ARE INVOLVED IN
the real property known as
1343 Merced Street, Rich-
mond, California 94804, Parcel Number
580-090-013
The deed of trust was recorded at the
County Court House, Main and Court Street, Mar-
inez, CA on 12/27/1996, at or
near \$100,000. The balance due, payable at the time of
sale, to cash a cashier's
check drawn by the
national bank, a check drawn
on the national bank, or a check drawn by a
state or federal savings and
loan association, or credit union, or savings bank
specified in Financial Code
Section 18010.1, shall be used to do business in California
in accordance with the deed of trust, without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, liens, encumbrances, to satisfy the
obligation secured by the
deed of trust. Signed and sealed
James Smith and Carolee
Smith, husband and wife, as
trustees. Recorded on
3/28/97. Instrument
No. 95-071632, Official Record
of Contra Costa County, Califor-
nia. The total amount se-
cured by the deed of initial publication
is \$100,000. The date of initial publica-
tion is 3/28/97. This includes
\$9,919.99, which includes

LEGAL NOTICE

the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest, and reasonably estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Dated: 11/19/1999 Premier Trust Deed Services, Inc., 3 ADA, Irvine, California 92618, Trustee Sale Information Number (916) 387-7728, Premier Trust Deed Services, Inc. By: Ronald W. Jantzen, Vice President, ASAP374628 12/3, 12/10, 12/17
Legal El Cerrito Journal 0183
Publish December 3, 10, 17,
1999

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST FILED
1997 Jan 0010449536 Other
00662558 A.P. Number
512-260-003-09 YOU ARE IN
DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF
TRUST, DATED January 26,
1999, UNLESS YOU TAKE
ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR
PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD
WITHOUT A SALE. YOU
NEED AN EXPLANATION OF
THE NATURE OF THE PRO-
CEEDING AGAINST YOU.
YOU SHOULD CONTACT A
LAWYER. Notice is hereby
given that The Guaranty
Trust Services, Inc. a California
Corporation, as trustee, or
successor trustee, or substi-
tute, is the holder of the Deed
of Trust executed by
Lee H. Austin an unmarried

LEGAL NOTICE

[illegible]

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
T.S. No. 00946781; C/L Loan
No. 00946781; U/R#4 IN
RE OF TRUST DATED 6/1/84 UN-
DER THE WILL OF THE DECEASED
TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY,
IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC
SALE. FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE
OF THE PROCEEDING
PLEASE ORDER AND CONTACT A LAWYER.
A public auction sale to the
highest bidder of the cash-
ier's check drawn on a
state or national bank, check
drawn on a federal or state
credit union, or a check
drawn on a federal or state
savings and loan association,
or savings association, or
other financial institution in
Section 5102 of the Financial
Code and authorized to do
business in the State of
California, which may be
held by the duly appointed
trustee. The sale will be
made by public auction with or
without reserve, or extension,
or continuance, or suspension,
or embargances, to
satisfy the obligation secured
hereby by the property of The
undersigned Trustee. This
disclaims any liability for any in-
correctness of the property
address or other common
misinformation.
TRUSTEER-PHILIP

LEGAL NOTICE

ANNA JACSON AN UNMARRIED WOMAN AND ALBERTA JACSON AN UNMARRIED WOMAN Recorded 8/14/84 Issued Instrument No. 64 157/225 Records in the office of the Recorder of CONTA COSTA County California on 8/14/2000 at 10:00 AM

RECORD OF CONTA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS 1000 STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE 725 SOUTH MAIN AND COURT STREET SAN MARINO, CA 91766

Property Address is purported to be: 145 S 35TH STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114-0137 513-047-011 The total amount secured by said instrument is \$100,000.00. This publication of this notice is for the purpose of including the total amount of the unpaid balance (including interest, taxes, fees, and costs, expenses, and additional charges) as of the date of publication of this notice.

EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC. 15455 SAN PABLO AVENUE, SUITE #208 MISSION HILLS, CA 91344-1000 (818) 700-0011 DONITA TRUSTEE ASP#375559 12/10, 12/17, 12/24

Printed on Recycled Paper. Final 193
December 10, 2001 17, 24

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

tions to the location of property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. December 06, 1999. GOLDEN WEST SAVINGS ASSOCIATION SERVICE CO., CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 4101 Wiseman Boulevard, T6F1 San Antonio, Texas 78151 Telephone Number: (512) 543-4998 Sale Status (a): (918) 387-7728 Net proceeds, Assistant Secretary AP375507 12/17, 12/24, 12/31. El Cerrito Journal 0200

December 17, 2010, 3:45 PM
This is a public document.
By: _____
Date: _____

November 15, 1999
STEPHEN L. WERNER
County Clerk
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Seal of the County of Contra Costa
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Deputy
CLERK

**STATEMENT OF
ABANDONMENT OF USE
OF BUSINESS NAME**

I, the following persons have
abandoned the use of the above
business name DIXON
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
CLERK
LEWIS DIXON, in EL CERRILLO
CA 94803

The fictitious business name
has been used about _____
in Contra Costa County on February
24, 1997 under file
number 17-1153

I, _____
of _____
St. Andrews Drive
Cerrito, CA. 94803
A Dixon
55 Arundel Way
El Cerrillo, CA 94806

My business was conducted
by a general partnership
Hazel Dixon
This statement was filed with
in the County Clerk of Con-
tra Costa County on the date
of _____
A true and correct copy of this
document shall be filed with the
Clerk of the County of Con-
tra Costa, California on the
_____ day of _____, 2010.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the
County of Contra Costa, California
this December 31, 2010.

1999

FILED
December 1, 1999
STEPHEN L. WEIR
County Clerk
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
by TRISH KLEANE, Deputy
of the County Clerk
BANDONMENT OF USE
OF FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME
following persons have
banded out of the ficti-
tious business name TECH-
NIX SYSTEMS at 1656
S. Main St. in Richmond,
94804

A fictitious business name
banded to above was filed in
Contra Costa County on Febru-
ary 24, 1997 under the file
number 1996-07-0001928-00

John Shandi
1656 S Main St
Richmond, CA. 94804

This business was conduct-
ed by an individual
John Shandi
his statement was filed

LEGAL NOTICE

November 1961
 S. G. G. G.
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 CTITIOUS BUSINESS
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eka Silva
 Sea View Drive
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CONTINUA COSTA
 CONTINUOUS STATE
 NAME STATE
 12961 San Pablo
 in Richmond, CA 94805
 hereby registered by the
 living owner(s)
 Harmony Trade Inc.
 business is conducted
 by the

Wu Hong lei President
his statement was filed
the County Clerk of
Costa on date indicated
the stamp above
ness commenced on
November 5, 1999
press November 5, 2004
The Journal #0186
September 3, 10, 17,
1999
November 1999
STEPHEN
ONTRA

CTTIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
name of the business
RAMENTO AUTO CE
is located at 2543 C
a Cir in Concord, CA
2018 hereby registered by
following owner(s)
Beth Resents
9 Camara Cir
Concord, CA. 94520
this business is conducted

FILED
November 12, 1999
STEPHEN L. WEIR
County Clerk

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURT
 By P. SILVA, Deputy
 FLE NO 99-7604
CITIZENS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
 name of the business
 & K ASSOCIATES INC 21
 NATURAL ELECTRIC S
 od at 1515 Harbor St
 burg, CA 94505 is here-
 registered by the following
 (s):
 K Associates, Inc.
 of Incorporation Califor-

business is conducted
by a corporation
Kelli Laughlin, President
his statement was filed
the County Clerk of Con-
Costa on date indicated
the stamp above
Business commenced on
November 12 1999
Expires November 12 2004
at The Journal #0186
Filing Date December 3, 10, 17,
1999

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
By J McKILLOP Deputy
FILE NO 99-7637
DICTIOUS BUSINESS

**Billy's mom needs a good plumber.
Billy needs a good hiding place.**



CATNIP SHAPED CHRISTMAS STOCKING, \$8.99; Rawhide "Candy" (for dogs); Catnip Extract spray, \$5.99 (for police use against attack cats?); Microchip Play and Squeak Mouse, \$5.99 (realistic squeaks; Tut and Newman wouldn't let me have it); Noodles, the cat at Pet Food Express; Catnip Gift Wrap, \$3.99 (I dare you to put that under the tree!)



PET PAGER, \$109.99. Owner buzzes dog, pager vibrates on collar, calls owner back on its cellular phone! Seriously, it's for dogs to return when out of voice range and for deaf dogs.



MARINATED MICE, \$6.99. The "marinade" is catnip; after a few of these your cat will also be marinated; Cosmic Kitty Herbs, \$1.99; Cosmic Kitty Grass, \$1.99. You'll never have to mow your lawn again.



DELIDOME, \$50. Plays 10-second owner recording, like "Dinner time! Come and get it!"; automatically ejects red ball full of dry cat kibble every 2-4 hours; cat bats ball around, food pops out of hole.

Playing Santa Paws

By Gary Bogue

HAVE YOU FINISHED holiday shopping for your dogs, cats, birds, pet alligators and tarantulas? I thought not. So I've gathered some tips to put you in the mood.

But first, I want to let you know you're in good company if pets are on your list. According to an annual holiday survey of customers conducted by Petsmart Inc., 86 percent of respondents are planning to purchase holiday gifts for their pets this year.

Men will outspend women by 10 percent to 20 percent and shoppers here in the West will spend \$12 more than the national average — \$95! — on pet gifts, the survey says.

The Internet will play a significant role in holiday shopping, with 41 percent of consumers surveyed plan-



TRICKY TENNIS BALL, \$7.99. Dog bites, "mouth" opens and food pops out. Simple; cheap.

ning to browse online for pet gifts. (Too bad they couldn't come

up with figures showing how many pets do their own online browsing. I'm sure my own computer-savvy feline, Tut, does this because I find his paw prints all over my computer screen.)

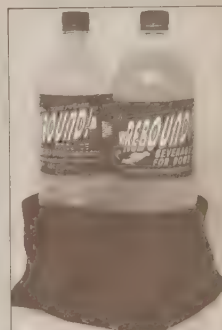
While online sales are strong, many pet owners still plan to brave the stores, with pets in tow to help select their own gifts.

I decided to do my own little local pet gift survey this Christmas and enlisted my "gifted" cats, Tut and Newman, to give me a hand.

The staff at the Benicia Pet Food Express store were kind enough to let me select a box full of their most unique and slightly oddball pet goodies to take home for my beasts to check out.

What you see here are the results of Gary's, Tut's & Newman's Hot Pet Gifts for this Christmas survey.

But remember, don't let your



COLLAPSIBLE DOG BOWL, \$12.99; sports drink for dogs in Original Lime and Cool Ice. What, no toilet water? \$2-\$2.50/1.5 liter bottle. Available at PetCo and Petsmart stores.

pets spend all your money in one place!

This is Where It's Happening... in the Kids Kalender

KINDERGYM
WONDERFUL CLASSES FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS
Slides, climbers, ball pit, songs and more
waterplay, art, playdough, and more
For more information call Dawn at 510 547-7726
Temple Beth Abraham
327 MacArthur Blvd • Oakland • near Grand Lake Theatre

The Crowden Center for Music in the Community

Offering a variety of after school and Saturday classes for young musicians at all levels
Join our production of the Russian musical An Ordinary Magic: A Very Truthful Fairy Tale, spend Saturday mornings with the Arethusa Wind Ensemble; learn to play the guitar.

Register now for Spring 2000 Classes!

- Art (ages 3-6)
- Pre-Instrument Training (ages 3-6)
- Beginning Violin and Cello Classes (ages 6-10)
- String Ensemble/Chamber Music (ages 9-15)
- Chamber Music for Adv. High School Students
- Beginning Guitar/Guitar Ensemble (ages 8-15)
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Last-Minute Gifts

Holiday Hints

How to be a blooming genius

While the poinsettia has become synonymous with the holiday season, there are a number of other indoor plant varieties that also are highly regarded as holiday symbols.

Two in particular, the Norfolk Island Pine and the Christmas cactus, are not only attractive plants, they require little beyond the normal care given to any houseplant.

The Norfolk Island Pine is one of the most handsome of all indoor trees, and as its name implies, looks like a miniature pine tree. When potted in an attractive red or green container, during the holidays it can be decorated to resemble a tiny Christmas tree.

The Christmas cactus is an attractive winter-blooming indoor plant that produces large trumpet-shaped flowers in red or salmon-pink, generally around Christmas, thus its common name. When planted in a white planter to set off the color of its blossoms, it

becomes a beautiful holiday decoration.

Both plants are available at most garden supply stores, greenhouses, discount and general merchandise stores, and home and hardware centers.

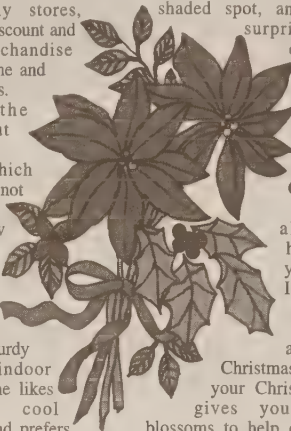
Unlike the beautiful but temperamental poinsettia which generally does not last much beyond the new year, the Norfolk Island Pine and Christmas cactus are attractive and sturdy year-round indoor plants. The pine likes good light, cool temperatures and prefers dry soil, especially during the winter heating season. When watering, always err on the side of

dryness.

The Christmas cactus likes a potting soil that contains sphagnum moss or very coarse peat. Beyond that, treat it as you would any other houseplant. In summer place it outdoors in a shaded spot, and don't be surprised if it decides to

bloom again in early summer, as well as again next Christmas. And best of all, next holiday season your Norfolk Island Pine can again be decorated as a miniature

Christmas tree, while your Christmas cactus gives you beautiful blossoms to help celebrate the holidays.



Preserve your Holiday memories

Looking for a gift that will always be remembered? Try a family portrait. With today's hectic lifestyles, the holidays may be your best opportunity for getting the family together. This makes it the perfect time to arrange for your family to be photographed.

Keep in mind that professional studios book up quickly for the holidays, so call early for an appointment.

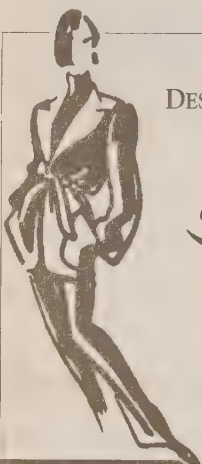
Your photographer should take the time to talk to you about your family and their favorite activities, as well as offer suggestions on location, and coordinating clothing and colors.

The photographer will use this



information to create a photograph that tells your family's unique story.

Many photographers are willing to take portraits on location. There are several ways to find a photographer in your area. A personal recommendation is a good source for finding a photographer.



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The Auto Section

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Alameda Journal, The Journal

December 17, 1999

Section D

Trends RV shows put window shoppers in the driver's seat [D2]

News California State Auto Association slashes customer dividends [D3]

Maintenance Rely on The Auto Doctor for quick relief [D4]

Dodge rolls out Dakota as Quad Cab

Down the Road

By Jill Amadio

There's a new truck in town that threatens to shake up the compact pickup market. Dodge's 2000 Dakota Quad Cab not only seats six people, it also offers them entry through four full-sized doors, much like a sedan. The two front-hinged rear doors open wider than any other truck, and all four doors have roll-down windows.

Targeted at buyers who use their trucks as their primary or only vehicle (with 30 percent expected to be women), the Quad Cab is for lifestyles that morph from work to family to play. While there's no mistaking its truck heritage and practical styling, the pickup's interior comforts compare well with passenger cars. In fact, this pickup is so car-like, the absence of squeaks and rattles, even off-road, is a little unnerving.

One expects a real truck to sound like a truck, complete with clangs when driving over bumps or potholes, but the Dakota hums along powerfully, capably and very, very quietly.

Dodge says that weight-saving is part of the reason for smooth on- and off-roading, as well as being responsible for excellent fuel efficiency, which is rated at 15 city/20 highway on the 2WD automatic transmission model, and one mile less per gallon on the 4WD model.

Stretched by nearly 15 more inches than its predecessor, the cab can easily



ONE EXPECTS A REAL TRUCK to sound like a truck, complete with clangs when driving over bumps or potholes. But the Dakota hums along powerfully, capably and very, very quietly.

See DODGE, Page D2

Drive, She Said



By Denise McCluggage

Do manufacturers care only about getting you through the warranty period?

Quality of miles makes the difference

Keep it or get rid of it? That is the question: Does it make more sense to put up with a sea of car troubles or to end them by trading or selling the aging machine?

Let's say your set of wheels has more than six figures showing on the odometer and you are getting conflicting advice. On one side you hear: "Get rid of that while it's still running and you might get something for it. It's already nickel and dimeing you and that turns to dollars real quick."

On the other side: "That car is almost free transportation. It's paid for and depreciated as much as it can. Why jump back into car payments? Keeping it running costs less." Which one is the bearer of truth?

In making a decision, there are a num-

See STRESS, Page D2



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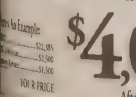
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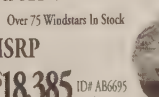


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RVs make a splash in shows

Look inside to make the most in comparative shopping

When winter sets in around the country, it's a sure sign that the indoor Recreational Vehicle show season is upon us. While it's no replacement for a trip to the lake in your favorite RV, because the lake is frozen over and the RV is in storage for the season, an RV show can be a terrific place to spend some fun and educational time.

The most important objective of an RV show is to display a wide range of new RVs including motorhomes, travel trailers, truck campers and others. Such shows are a great way to do a lot of comparative shopping without driving all over the countryside. RV shows also feature displays of new products and accessories to enhance an RV's usability, along with dealers selling resort-style campground visits and other items of interest to the avid RV'er.

While some of these accessory items up for sale are downright silly, there are some good deals to be had for the savvy shopper in the accessory sales area.

Most RV shows include informative and entertaining free seminars presented by experts in the RV field. Some of these pros are simply enthusiasts, and many also write the stories you see in Trailer Life, Mo-

Rolling Homes

By Jeff Johnston

torhome and other RV magazines. These experienced RV professionals can give you the inside scoop on topics ranging from vehicle water system maintenance, to safety on the road to choosing the right RV for your needs.

If shopping for a new RV is a priority reason you attend an RV show, it helps to start with some homework. Making the right RV choice, especially if you're buying for the first time, is a big reason for attending several RV shows before you buy. All RVs look glittery and pretty and appealing from the outside, but you have to look at them with a clear objective in mind and shop for the unit that you know is best for your needs, not the one that a salesman convinces you is best.

The annual RV Buyer's Guide, published by TL Enterprises and for sale at magazine sales and bookstores nationwide, contains over 450 listings of new RVs of all types. A browse through the Buyer's Guide can help you view and understand many of the sizes and floorplans and

options available on new RVs. Armed with that knowledge, you won't feel so lost when the salesman starts talking about walk-through baths, bunkhouse models, front kitchens and slideout rooms.

Take a checklist along when you browse the show. How many people do you need to sleep each night on a regular basis, and how many visitors will you have infrequently? How large is the space where you can store the RV when it's not being used? Is your family cook an enthusiastic preparer of large meals, or is your campground cooking simple at best? These items, and a long list of others, should be on your shopping checklist because this will definitely help you make the right decision the first time around.

If your shopping venture has been successful, an RV show can also be a great place to get a really good buy on that new RV. First of all, the dealers are at a show to help promote business, so chances are good they're ready to do some dealing. They also spend a lot of money taking part in a show, and one of the expenses is hauling all their sample RVs to the show grounds. By the end of the show, in particular, they're ready to make a deal and see a customer haul



BRING A CHECKLIST ALONG when you browse the RV show. Stay focused on what you need.

the trailer away or drive off in the motorhome rather than paying a worker to transport the rig back to the dealer's lot again.

Be aware that even a show sale cash-and-carry situation may well mean a trip to the dealer's lot with the RV for some final preparation work or other maintenance or safety checks. This will vary with different

dealerships and depending on state or local laws or the type of RV, as well.

Even if a new RV is not in your future, an RV show can be an excellent place to shop around for options and features you're looking for in a used RV. If you have a particular floor plan in mind, for example, you can check out how such a floor plan works in a new RV while you

search for that just right one on the open market.

Keep your eyes peeled for interesting RV shows. Having a family fun-and-outdoors well-educated decision-maker buy your new dream RV.

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Put your brakes to the test before you need to rely on them

Of the many things taken for granted in life, few are as important as the belief that each time you hit the car brakes, they will work.

To ensure that this belief is well-grounded, you should inspect and maintain those brakes. As every new car and truck sold is equipped with disc brakes at the front wheels and quite possibly at the rear wheels, we'll limit this to a discussion of disc brakes.

Despite several variations on the theme, all disc brake systems work in essentially the same way. The so-called disc, or brake rotor, is attached to the axle and the wheel, and rotates with them. A stationary device called a caliper straddles the rotor. The caliper lightly holds friction ma-

Owners Auto Know

By Don Chaikin

terial (the brake pads or shoes) between it and the sides of the rotor.

Hydraulic pressure forces the caliper to squeeze these pads against the sides of the rotor, slowing or stopping it. The hydraulic pressure comes from your foot as you step on the brake pedal, forcing hydraulic fluid in the brake system's master cylinder to move through tubing to all of the brakes.

Simple enough, right? Begin the job by raising the front of the vehicle and resting it on safety stands. Not on a jack, safety stands! Then remove the front wheels and tires so

you can see the rotors. It's normal for there to be rust near the very center and the extreme outer edge where the brake pads don't make any contact.

Check the large, shiny surface for cracks, chips or gouges in the surface. Any line or irregularity that's deep enough to catch a fingernail needs to be repaired. The metal surface should have a consistent clean, polished look. It should not have any blue areas that would indicate it was overheated. Don't forget to check the inside surface, too, not just the outer one.

If the rotors are good, inspect the pads, or shoes, that act upon it. Many new model cars have dashboard warning lights indicating that the brakes are worn. If not, you may be able to see how much friction mate-

rial is left on the pad through a large inspection hole in the side of the caliper.

Many pads are made with a deep groove down the center of the friction material. As the material wears, the groove disappears. If that groove is still 1/16 of an inch, there's still some life in the pads. Otherwise, you'll have to look at the edge of the caliper to see the edge of the brake pads.

Many cars now have an audible warning in the form of a metal tab in the brake pad. If the pad's worn to its safe limit, the tab will hit the rotor each time you step on the brakes and you'll hear an awful shriek from the brakes each time you use them.

Besides noting how much friction material is left on the surface of the

brake pads, it's also important to note that each pad is wearing at the same rate as its mates. If only one pad on a specific wheel is wearing, it's a sign of that the brakes are not operating properly and must be checked by a pro.

Next, inspect all the hoses, steel tubes and all of the connections. Check the hoses for signs of chafing, brittleness, softness and cracks. Give each hose a tug and a twist as you check it. Check everything for any signs of fluid.

Finally, check the master cylinder and the fluid reservoirs. This might be easier after you've put the wheels back on and put the nose back on the ground. Check each of the fittings at the master cylinder for any sign of leaks: wetness, stains and cor-

rosion. If it's all good, most of the fluid in the reservoir.

Most newer cars and trucks have a translucent reservoir to see the level without taking the cap off. If you must remove the cap, wipe it clean so no dirt or oil gets in as you open it. The brake system goes down as it wears, so if it's down a lot, don't top it off. Check for overflow when new pads are installed. But if level is low, there's a leak, and you should check the system again.

Don Chaikin is the author for Popular Mechanics magazine.

SPARE PARTS

Pump it up

For 2000, Mercedes-Benz offers buyers of the V6-powered ML320 and V8 ML430 a new optional sport package. The package gives the M-Class a broad-shouldered, yet sophisticated look. Modifications to the ML include side body sculpting formed by new fender flares, rocker panels and door moldings, integrated fog lights, Evo II alloy wheels, chrome exhaust tip, sport badging, plus new front and rear bumpers in body color.

Heavy duty engines

An all-new Duramax Diesel 6600 engine will debut as an optional engine in GM's 2001 Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra heavy-duty pickups, Crew Cabs, Big Dooley and Chassis Cab models. The engine is positioned to help GM set new industry stan-

dards for diesel power, performance, durability, reliability and quiet operation in the growing heavy-duty pickup class. Duramax Diesel 6600 will be a joint venture between GM and Isuzu Motors. The engines will be built at a brand new facility in Moraine, Ohio.

What to expect

Nissan North America has awarded a \$1.5 million grant to New York-based What to Expect Foundation. The funds will be used to provide free educational material based on the best-selling "What to Expect" parenting books. Nissan also will donate Quest minivans to women's health clinics across the country.

Tugging for an alignment?

If you are tugging on the steering wheel to keep

driving straight, your vehicle probably needs an alignment. Another flash point: if one of the edges of the front tires has extra tread wear, it's time.

Brake for our animal friends

The Humane Society of the United States is urging motorists to be wary about deer and other animals. Collisions with wildlife usually increase this time of the year because it is mating season for deer, moose and other large mammals. Hunting seasons and the change to standard time disrupt normal patterns for both wildlife and drivers. Expect to see most animals at dawn and dusk when many animals are most active. If you see one animal, expect more to follow.

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Stress

FROM PAGE D1

ber of things to consider besides how many miles your vehicle has on it.

What kind of miles are they?

A car that has added the miles by running long trips over good roads will be much younger inside than one that gained its miles through lots of short errands in the city. The miles on rough roads, whether pot-holed city streets or washboard country lanes, are more serious miles than those on a smooth surface.

What kind of maintenance has the car seen?

A car routinely serviced wears its miles better than one that has gone a long time between servicing. Even though manufacturers seem to be competing to lengthen the time they recommend between oil changes, a car buff I know, call him Fred, is skeptical. "Manufacturers just care about getting your car through its warranty phase," he says. "They don't care about its longevity. In fact, they want you to trade it in and start all over before any heavy-duty expenses kick in." Fred still changes his oil every 3,000 miles. "It's the cheapest insurance you can get."

Are you the original owner?

Only then can you really know what sort of childhood your car had — how hard the use, how careful the maintenance, how many short jaunts the car had.

Has it started needing a lot of things done to it?

This is a tough one to judge. Sometimes a trouble-free car suddenly needs a major repair and then seems to be trouble-free again. Other cars start their decline with a string

of little things without one big thing triggering "That's it!" But it grinds at you with uncertainty.

Fred again: "Sometimes with old cars you fix something and that actually stresses another part of the car and then that needs fixing." He shakes his head. "And then something else goes. Soon you find yourself owing more for new work than its total value."

He paints an unhappy picture. "And there you are stuck with a deteriorating car, worried it's going to conk out on you completely and it's costing you maybe as much as the lease on a new car. Suffice it to say Fred comes down on the side of shedding the junker and buying new."

On the other hand Anti-Fred says: "Oh no. You simply drive a new car out of the showroom and it drops in value by a third. Why should I take that depreciation hit? Give me a good used car every time." Fred asked, "You want to buy someone else's problems? That's what you'll get with a used car. Almost always."

The trouble is both sides have their points and the decision falls back in your lap. One thing you can do is start considering a replacement at the first sign of your current transportation's disability. Look at ads. Tour the Internet. Visit showrooms. Read. Build your knowledge of the car market and what is available — new and used — at a price you can consider.

This is my theory. If your car knows you're considering a change it will do one of two things: Break down completely and eliminate your uncertainty. Or straighten up and be on its best behavior — even shine. Unfortunately, only anecdotal data supports this.

Your preparation will put you ahead if your car does pack it in, so in the meantime, keep fretting. That's the lot of high-mileage car owners.

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Dodge

FROM PAGE D1

accommodate grandma and the kids. The seating area has expanded while the cargo bed out back has shrunk. Well, there is room for your hunting dog and a couple of dead deer, or seven Elvis Presley impersonators, as Dodge demonstrated during a recent introduction in Las Vegas.

The bed is 5-feet 3-inches long. If you leave the tailgate down and add an extender, the area stretches to 6-feet 9-inches. Innovations include a series of horizontal ridges in the wheelhouse and box sides for a divider that creates two-tier loading, while vertical ridges serve as slots for a bulkhead divide. Quad Cab's roof can be utilized for cargo, supporting up to 150 pounds on a roof rack.

The model lineup boasts the largest, most powerful choice of engines and the widest measurements in its class, plus two-wheel or four-wheel part- or full-time drive. Engines range from the base engine, a 3.9-liter Magnum, OHV V6 with 175 horsepower at 4,800 rpm to two V8s: the 4.7-liter Magnum SOHC delivering 235 horsepower at 4,800 rpm, and the massive 5.9-liter Magnum, OHV with 245 horsepower at 4,000 rpm.

Transmissions include a five-speed manual, a four-speed automatic, and a four-speed multi-speed automatic that

has alternate second-gear ratios for better fuel efficiency and smoother power flow. Payload capacity is 1,450 pounds and the trailer towing capability is a very nice 6,350 pounds. Cargo volume amounts to 38 cubic feet.

The interior is where civilization really kicks in, with many of the comfort features we expect on sedans. In fact, it's difficult to remember you're in a down-and-dirty pickup when you're behind the wheel of the Quad Cab.

Keyless entry is standard, and the overhead console has map lights plus an electronic compass. Books or notepads fit into small storage areas just like the poshest Jaguar, and on the 4WD models the floor console can hold a cell phone or a container of caviar.

The dashboard, seats, steering wheel, and trim are better than in some passenger cars, while rear seat cushions flip up for hiding packages either under the seats or in optional bins.

Much of the appeal of this Quad Cab is in its versatility. Owners can add accessories such as tents and covers that fit perfectly over the cargo bed to provide living space anywhere you decide to park, or jungle-style brush guards, skid-resistant bedliners, side-rail bike carriers, electric motor winches, and steel dog houses.

Dodge has done its homework with this pickup and has produced a vehicle to supply the fun that may have been missing in a compact truck, limited to just two or three people. Having a few extra friends along for the ride makes all the difference, even if they're all pseudo-Elvis Presleys.

Dodge has done its homework with this pickup and has produced a vehicle to supply the fun that may have been missing in a compact truck...

The Auto Section

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You're driving among neighbors.

Please drive neighborly.

California Auto Association cuts customer dividends

By Michael Liedtke
STAFF WRITER

The CSAA has lost at least \$200 million so far this year and could finish 1999 with a loss as high as \$500 million, according to a well-placed source. The CSAA, which doesn't release its financial results, declined to comment on the figures leaked to the Times. "We consider that to be proprietary information," CSAA spokesman Bob Brown said. "We remain very strong financially."

To be sure, 1999's losses won't cripple CSAA, which began the year with about \$2 billion in reserve. That healthy surplus is largely a legacy of the tremendous customer loyalty that CSAA has cultivated through the years.

High ranking

But is CSAA the same company that built up all that goodwill?

CSAA officials maintain the company is in better shape than ever after completing a reorganization that included the early retirements of nearly 2,000 workers over 40 years old. Some of these workers were forced out, according to legal findings that concluded CSAA management strongly hinted many workers would be laid off if they didn't accept the early retirement packages.

Critics of CSAA's restructuring contend the carrier's business plan isn't working out as management hoped. According to these insiders, the company's insurance claims division is supposedly in such disarray

that CSAA management is thinking about farming out the responsibility to a third-party contractor in New York. CSAA's Brown said he had heard of no such plan.

To support its contention that the reorganization is proceeding smoothly, CSAA points to an auto insurance industry study released in September by J.D. Power and Associates, a highly respected market research firm. The Power study found that CSAA rated fourth overall in customer satisfaction among California auto insurers. Only GEICO, the Automobile Association of Southern California and State Farm ranked higher than CSAA in a sampling of 8,220 California motorists.

No payoff for policyholders

If things are going so well, why did CSAA lower its dividend for long-time policyholders? It's an important point for policyholders since the dividend reduction effectively amounts to a rate increase.

Brown attributed the dividend cut to rising losses from claims, a trend that runs counter to what's happening in the rest of California's auto insurance industry. The times have been so good that most auto insurance carriers are reducing their rates by substantial amounts and some, like State Farm, are paying out more dividends than they have in many years.

Are CSAA's increased losses this

year being caused by more costly accidents involving its policyholders? Or has CSAA's claims processing system become so overwhelmed since the restructuring that the company finds itself mired in a morass of red ink? It's hard to know for sure at this stage.

This much seems certain: CSAA's much-touted reorganization hasn't paid off for policyholders so far.

Michael Liedtke is a staff writer and columnist. Reach him at 925-943-8088, or mliedtke@cctimes.com.

SPARE PARTS

Ford banks on hot custom F-250 project

J&J Enterprises has completed its 1999 Ford F-250 project truck. The white, long bed pickup is a custom case for J&J custom. It has polished stainless steel trim accessories, and also features new devices designed specifically for this project. Since its debut, the truck has been responsible for a marked upturn in business for Ford parts.

Auto show centennial

The first auto show was held in New York's Madison Square Garden in 1900. The show featured 40 manufacturers displaying more than 800 vehicles, fueled by steam, electricity and gas. By the end of the decade, more than 300 companies were producing cars.

Cav can do

The Chevrolet Cavalier receives a fresh new look for the 2000 model year, along with interior, mechanical and electrical enhancements. A new standard anti-lock braking system provides smoother operation when needed. A new manual transmission and shifter has a more precise shift feel and a smoother shift into reverse. Cavalier's 2.2- and 2.4-liter engines have new fuel injectors for better driveability, emissions and reliability.

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J&J ENTERPRISES has completed its 1999 Ford F-250 project truck. Since its debut, the truck has been responsible for a marked upturn in business for new Ford parts.

Meet your ASE techs

More than 400,000 professionals in the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) program work in every segment of the automotive industry: from truck dealerships, independent garages, fleets, service stations, and more. To become an ASE member, prospective candidates must first take one or more of ASE's 35 exams. A five-year ASE certification requires passing at least one exam and providing proof of two years of work experience.



The 2000 GMC SAFARI is a roomy ride, but suffers from a boxy design. Still, it hauls its share of holiday gifts.

GMC Safari mimics Santa's sleigh

How would like to go on a Safari with seven friends? Not an African trek safari; this trip would be in the midsize 2000 Safari produced by GMC.

That's the trip I took this week. Seven friends and I took off to do holiday shopping. The Safari is a middle of the road vehicle in this sense. The average minivan is able to sit in real comfort. Yet unlike a full-size van, this vehicle was more maneuverable when it came to parking in crowded shopping centers.

The Safari is equipped with the new V6 engine that produces a 190-horsepower linked to an electronic four-speed automatic transmission. The GMC people point out that it is equipped with platinum-spark plugs which allow the engine to travel up to 100,000 miles before requiring a tune-up. Another benefit is the engine coolant is good for

Peace on Wheels

By Tom Keane

up to five years or 150,000 miles, which is a saving on the environment.

In spite of the weight of eight big bodies, the engine responded reasonably well. I doubt that I was getting the 16 city, 20 highway mileage listed as EPA fuel economy, but there was no difficulty entering a highway and getting up to full speed. And speaking of hauling a load, this two-wheel-drive Safari is capable of towing up to 6,000 pounds, which is about 500 pounds more than the 1999 version. For those who want better traction, and all-wheel drive model is available.

Another mechanical benefit is standard anti-lock brakes that have 200,000-mile/12-year durability/reliability. And for those who travel long

distance, the 2000 model now has a 27-gallon fuel tank.

Had this shopping trek been with tots, the Safari has child seat anchors. Other safety devices are a remote panic alarm that is activated with the keyless entry fob. Incidentally, this vehicle has lockout prevention system. Should the key be left in the ignition and the power lock button is pressed to lock the doors, all will lock except the driver's door.

There are two systems that control the use of battery power. Should an interior lamp be left on, it will shut off after 20 minutes to prevent the battery from draining down. Although the exterior design is a bit boxy and old fashioned, there are many thoughtful features on the 2000 model. For example, I was able to take the key out of the ignition and the sound system remained on for up to 20 minutes, or until a door was opened.

Had I forgotten to shut the head-

SPECIFICATIONS

2000 GMC SAFARI PASSENGER VAN

- VEHICLE TYPE 8-passenger, 3-door 2WD mid-size van
- BASE PRICE \$21,451 (as tested: \$24,920)
- ENGINE TYPE V6 Vortec 4300 w/SFI
- DISPLACEMENT 4.3-liter
- HORSEPOWER (net) 190 at 4400 rpm
- TORQUE (lb-ft) 250 at 2800 rpm
- TRANSMISSION 4-spnd automatic w/overdrive
- WHEELBASE 111 in.
- TREAD (front/rear) 65 / 65 in.

- OVERALL LENGTH 190 in.
- OVERALL WIDTH 77 in.
- HEIGHT 75 in.
- TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb) 40 ft.
- CURB WEIGHT 4,323 lbs.
- FUEL CAPACITY 27 gal.
- EPA MILEAGE RATING 16 city, 20 highway
- ASSEMBLY PLANT Baltimore, Md.
- STRONG FEATURE Interior roominess
- WEAK FEATURE Boxy design

lamps or parking lamps off after removing the key from the ignition, chimes would remind me. In fact, chimes are used as a reminder along with telltale lights for such things as seatbelts that are not fastened, or parking brakes that remain on.

When our group of shoppers returned to the Safari, each with arm

loaded with of packages, I was able to use the convenient dutch-doors at the rear of the Safari. The rear glass opens upward and two doors swing out exposing a respectable amount of storage area.

Then off to our final stop for the Christmas tree, which we tied to the roof rack. The roof rack is part of a

\$4,200 option package that includes a top quality audio system, tinted glass, dual remote mirrors, overhead console, and cast aluminum wheels.

All told, my \$21,451 tester had a bottom line of \$24,920. That price also included front and rear air conditioning, six-way power driver's seat, and high back front bucket seats.

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Get off the Road

By Christopher Keane

Subaru Outback lean, mean

At your local sport utility vehicle smorgasbord, Subaru's redesigned Outback wagon would be labeled the chef's health special. A "right choice" kind of utility vehicle. Lean, efficient, and economical. And the kind of SUV alternative that more drivers should consider.

Especially, the 90 percent of SUV owners who never shift into 4WD, or even touch the dust of a back-road rut; yet who waddle around city streets in expensive, beefy, overweight, high-cholesterol SUV trucks. Their valuable dollar should be well-served by a lean all-wheel drive machine like the 2000 Subaru Outback.

I recently tested the fully-loaded Outback Limited. I was impressed. Subaru improved ride and handling, structural integrity, luxury amenities, and safety – and boosted Outback to the upper ranks of the hybrid class.

Outback retains the purposeful flair of a muscular wagon, but new smooth styling, narrow door pillars and sleek profile lessened the funky car-on-steroids look of its predecessor. The new design allowed for long sweeps of glass on the side and rear windows – and maximized the driver's view front and aft.

Now longer and wider, Outback has more front leg room, head room and shoulder room than compact SUVs like Jeep Grand Cherokee, Chevy Blazer and Ford Explorer. Total cargo area, accessed through a wide, low opening and high-rising hatch, increased to within several cubic feet of these bulkier SUVs.

Under the skin, a stronger unibody construction gives Outback twice the rigidity and 20 percent more torsional stiffness than the old model. A new multi-link rear suspension and retuned Macpherson strut front suspension increase stability. Over both pavement and dirt, Outback clung firmly to the road, handled curves with stable confidence, and rode with near luxury-class comfort.

Subaru's proven 2.5-liter four-cylinder boxer engine carries over from the '99 model. Rated at only 165 horses and 166 pound-feet of torque, the power plant was tweaked to provide more torque at low speeds – meaning better acceleration in low range. When combined with the 4-speed autohifter, the test model responded smoothly off the line, and with quiet capability on the highway.

Current mileage figures of 22 city and 27 highway easily outclass its SUV truck competitors. (By the way, Subaru engineers are building a powerful V6 engine for future models.)

With the Outback Limited's leather-trimmed interior, Subaru has taken a large stride toward the upscale market. Gauges are large and easily read; a six-CD sound system is within easy reach; cupholders are well-placed. Other amenities include six-way power driver's seat and two power moonroofs. Yep, two moonroofs: flip-up for the front and slide-open for the rear.

The Limited's standard all-weather package should please Subaru's biggest loyalty base, folks in mountainous snow country. It includes heated front seats, heated mirrors, windshield wiper deicer and viscous limited-slip rear differential. The package is a reasonable \$500 option on the base model.

Although Outback's 7.3-inches of ground clearance is comparable to truck SUVs, slipping into the seats required no climbing – a thoughtful design for families with kids.

Speaking of families, safety is one of the paramount features of the Subaru. At the forefront is Subaru's well-proven all-wheel drive system; great for all-weather driving and the vast majority of off-highway travel. The Limited model also includes a limited-slip rear differential for added traction control. Four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes complete an excellent active safety program.

In addition, the Outback Limited comes standard with daytime running lights, dual front airbags, side-impact airbags, seat belt pretensioners and three-point seatbelts and headrests for all three rear seat passengers. A new heavily reinforced passenger box provides more protection during front, side or rear impacts.

Even with the significant redesign, pricing for '00 models remains within a couple hundred dollars of the '99s. The base Outback with a five-speed manual begins at \$22,695 and tops out at \$26,895 for the Outback Limited with automatic transmission. These prices are thousands less than competitive AWD wagons from Volvo and Audi.

Drivers looking for the capability and safety of an all-weather vehicle, but without all the fat of a traditional SUV, should consider the 2000 Subaru Outback Limited.

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Vortec doesn't need a soaking, but shop does

Dear Doctor: We purchased a new 1999 Chevrolet 3500 Vortec V8 van. From day one it has been a problem. At a stop light the engine will jerk when trying to accelerate. The engine seems like it is struggling and won't go over 50 mph. The dealer said they had to clean out the engine with detergent. They kept the van a week. When we got the van back it would not go into reverse, and still jumped in forward. We have not made the first payment yet. We bought the van for our business. The dealer said all they can do is allow us \$30 a day toward a rental. What can we do? Stanley

Dear Stanley: The first thing to do is call the customer assistance number for Chevrolet. Then talk to the sales person, then the general manager, and finally the owner of the dealership. The Vortec family of engines is good, and the heavy duty automatic transmissions will take a lot of abuse. Your van has something wrong that is being overlooked. There is no detergent that I know of that will clean a week-old engine. The dealer should ask GM for help on your Chevy van. You'll need a simple hook up of the scan tool Tech 2 made by Vetronix, a fuel pressure tester, two technicians, a road test, and all information collected and sent back to GM by satellite. In less than an hour, GM and the technician will know what the problem is.

As for the rental car, you should have been given a loaner. Check with your state lemon law for your legal rights.

Spongy carbon blues

Dear Doctor: I own a 1989 Oldsmobile 88 with 38,000 original miles. The engine is hard to start cold. The shop replaced the fuel pump and gave it a full tune-up. What's the problem? Eugene

Dear Eugene: The first thing is to make sure the owner is only using 87 octane gasoline. The next step is to leave the car overnight at the shop. The most common problems I find are weak ignition coils, faulty fuel pumps, restricted fuel filters, and coolant

Ask the Auto Doctor

By Junior Damato

temperature sensors out of range. On some engines, carbon buildup acts like a sponge and absorbs the gasoline, causing the hard start.

Clock springs infernal

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994 Ford F-150 pickup. Six months ago, the airbag light started blinking, and the horn and cruise control stopped working. I checked all the fuses. Is there anything I can do without going to the dealer and spending a lot of money? Jack

Dear Jack: Either a dealer or qualified technician should be able to scan check the airbag problem. The most common problem I find with airbags on Fords is the clock spring mounted under the steering wheel. The clock spring could also be the source of the horn and cruise control problems. Total cost of replacement is under \$200.

Fog that block

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Nissan 300ZX, and am storing it for three years. I put in gas stabilizer, put the car on blocks, removed the battery, and stuffed the tail pipes with rags to prevent moisture from getting in. Is there anything else that needs to be done? Roger

Dear Roger: Fog the engine with storage seal available from any marine store. This will prevent problems with the rings and pistons. You should also change the oil and filter, along with the antifreeze.

You've got filter litter

Dear Doctor: I own a 1978 Oldsmobile Cutlass wagon. The problem is oil gets into the air filter, which is mounted down by the battery. What is the problem, and why is the air filter so far away from the top of the engine? Wilbert

Dear Wilbert: The oil is seeping down to the air filter because the engine ventilation system is clogged, or there is an internal pressure problem from worn piston rings. A full check of the PCV system and engine vacuum needs to be done. The throttle body vent passage may also be carbon blocked. The reason why the air filter is so far away from the engine is there was no other place to locate it.

Igniter module suspect

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Honda Accord with a starting problem. Sometimes, the engine won't start – just cranks, but won't turn over. This happens mostly on hot days. Have you ever heard of this problem? Manuel

Dear Manuel: Honda did have a recall on this intermittent starting problem. The igniter in the distributor was the culprit 99 percent of the time. Have the dealer check on this for you, along with checking trouble codes stored in the computer memory. Always use Honda ignition parts in the distributor.

Why overhaul transmission?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1988 Mercury Sable with only 37,000 miles. Recently, I took the car in for an oil change. When I picked up the car, the shop owner said the transmission was slipping and suggested an overhaul for the sum of \$1,500. I had never noticed any transmission problems. Is there anything short of an overhaul to correct a slipping problem? Robert

Dear Robert: Get a second opinion and have the transmission fluid level checked. At 37,000 miles it would seem unlikely the transmission needs a complete overhaul. You may want to have the filter and fluid replaced along with a transmission flush service. On both older Taurus and Sable models, I always like to see the transmission fluid level 1/4 over the full mark. This has solved a lot of slipping when restarting after coming to a fast stop. There is the possibility that the transmission may need an overhaul. The

\$1,500 figure is fair for a transmission overhaul.

May as well replace it

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Honda Accord with 114,000 miles that has a bad crankshaft seal. The crankshaft seal is like to have the crankshaft seal replaced. I have asked a couple of mechanics both said it would be expensive to get a secondhand or a rebuilt engine. Is this a good price? The car is in good condition except for the engine. What do you suggest? Mary

Dear Mary: It would not pay to place or repair the crankshaft seal on a car with 114,000 miles. You have more used engine installed runs about \$1,500. A warranty costs \$3,000. If the car is in good condition as you describe, a replacement engine is a good choice.

Opt for alarm kill switch

Dear Doctor: We purchased a 1999 Jeep with 100,000 miles. The alarm system for no reason when the car is locked, not lock the doors, the alarm will go off. Can I get the alarm disconnected?

Dear Tom: The factory alarm system on today's vehicles have a good reason. Yes, the alarm can be disconnected. I would leave the alarm system. The theft feature in the Jeep and get the alarm solved. Any thief can pop the alarm 30 seconds or less. With the alarm system, the alarm will sound and the car will be disabled. Mitchell's One-Drive is a complete trouble flow chart for the alarm system. If you do elect to disconnect the alarm system, have some kind of alarm installed.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3100 Circle, Lakeville, MA 02447. Copyright 1999, Motor Matters.







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Stunning 1967 Benz 250SE was worth a 15-year wait

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

the brakes refusing to let the wheels turn. The odometer at that time had recorded 55,000 miles. The left door had a minor dent but, after ironing that out it was determined that a spot paint job would look like a spot paint job; the entire left side was repainted.

Van Duzer also tended to the hydraulic system, as well as the leaking front engine seal and the perforated exhaust system. He also had one of the rear-bumper overriders straightened and replated with chrome. A dent on the right side was smoothed out without a trace.

The maroon leather upholstery needed some attention. The application of some leather dressing was all it took to make the upholstery supple once more. In addition, the driver's seat had to have some of the leather panels replaced. Van Duzer had the new panels dyed to perfectly match the surrounding old ones.

The Becker radio still produces quality sound through the two speakers, one in the dashboard and one in the rear window package shelf. Of the 1,407 models built in 1967, most have had the zambano-wood window sills and dashboard replaced where the sun either damaged the finish or warped the wood. The wooden binnacle housing the 140-mph speedometer on the dashboard of Van Duzer's car is virtually like new.

The day will come when the wood trim will require refinishing, but all the years the dashboard was protected by being garaged will make the task easier since the wood isn't warped.

Beneath the engine hood is a healthy 152-cubic-inch, six-cylinder engine producing 150 horsepower. The nimble, 16-foot-long Mercedes-Benz can be turned, with the help of power steering, in 39 feet. The 3,322-pound two-door hardtop is brought to a halt with the help of servo-assisted braking.



DAVID VAN DUZER is pleased that his 250SE has a four-speed, floor-shift manual transmission. It makes for "a fun time behind the wheel."

Van Duzer is very pleased that his 250SE has a four-speed, floor-shift manual transmission, which makes for a fun time behind the wheel. Even so, the Mercedes-Benz wasn't known for its economical performance. It needs the 21.7-gallon gasoline tank since it only gets 14.7 mpg for about a 300-mile range.

Besides the sheer stylistic beauty of the hardtop, Van Duzer was drawn to the 250SE because of the chrome

bumpers and the absence of plastic. Since he's put the car back in road-worthy condition, he's driven it fewer than 1,000 miles.

Occasionally, on sunny days, the Mercedes-Benz can be seen outside Van Duzer's office. "I drive it more than I should," Van Duzer admits. Who can blame him?

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2000 Ford Focus puts value in perspective

Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

gine is available.

The Focus has a high roofline plus a high rear end. The high trunk deck allows for more storage and the high roofline allows bigger people to sit more upright. Even the backrest of the seats are more upright, which is the way I prefer to drive. It allows me to drive a greater distance without becoming seat weary. Upright seats are better for attentive driving, too.

Not only does the high roofline allow taller people to sit in comfort, the entire interior is roomy. Getting in and out is easy and the mechanical seats have enough movement to find the right comfort and steering zone.

The instrument and door panels carry over the outside design with curved lines built within each panel. I doubt the designers know the meaning of the words "smooth and straight." Even the radio reflects this unusual taste.

Speaking of the radio, that, too, had a \$140 option of a single CD player. The radio sounds good, but some of my best driving music is on cassettes and this sound system didn't accom-

modate them.

Another option (\$400) on my tester was anti-lock brakes. I wasn't aware I had ABS until I had to jam on the brakes in an emergency, and as I came to a safe stop, I could feel the chatter of the ABS on the brake pedal. Had they not been on the car, I'm certain I would have caused more than \$400 in damage.

Steering and maneuverability of the Focus are great. Steering is very responsive and the size of this car makes it easy to park. The Ford people told me of how the engineers fine tuned the springs, dampers and stabilizing bar to achieve a sense of stability, as well as vehicle solidity and structural integrity. Those words sound good, but I'm not sure what they all mean. What it means to me is simply that the Focus is a fun car to drive.

In the area of safety, the Focus has a rigid energy-absorbing crash zone for maximum passenger protection. The company says it has been tested in 100 different "real world" crash tests. Additional equipment includes the enhanced ISOFTX child safety seats.

My Focus provided standard dual airbags. Side impact airbags are a \$350 option. If needed, this option might also be a bargain.

SPECIFICATIONS 2000 FORD FOCUS SE

- VEHICLE TYPE
4-door, 5-passenger FWD sedan
- BASE PRICE
\$13,565
- ENGINE TYPE
4-cylinder, SOHC w/SPFI
- DISPLACEMENT
2.0 liter
- HORSEPOWER (net)
110 at 5000 rpm
- FUEL CAPACITY
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- EPA MILEAGE RATING
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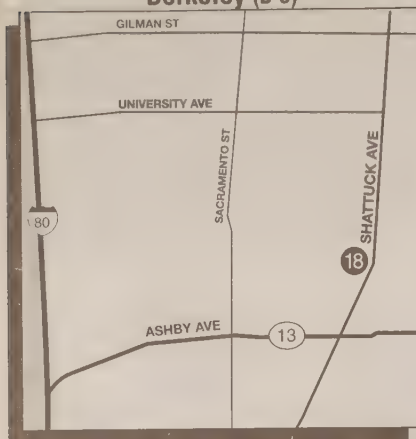
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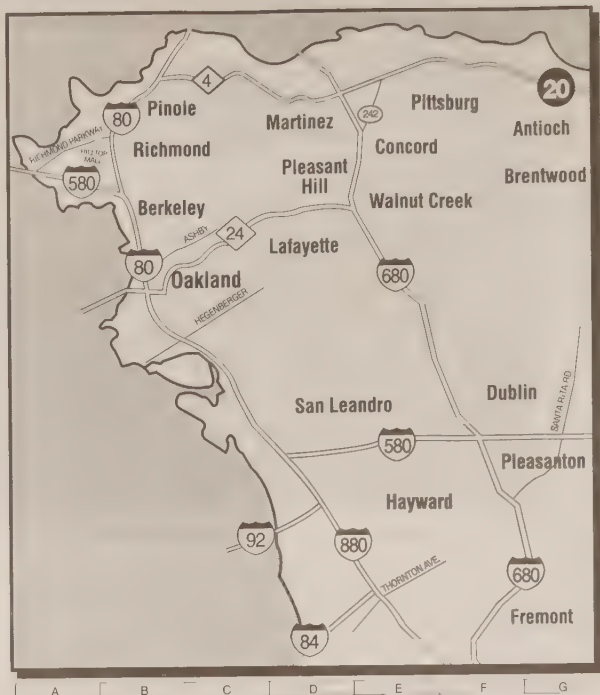
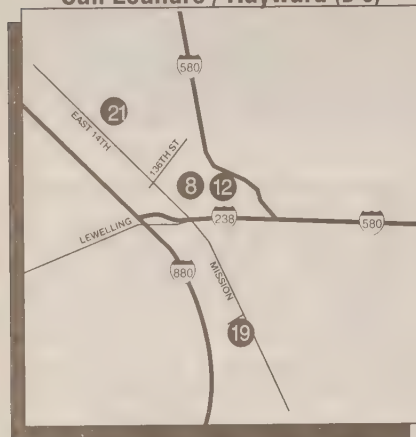
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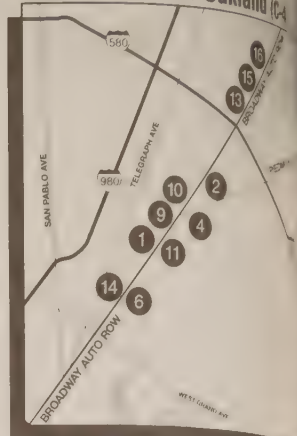
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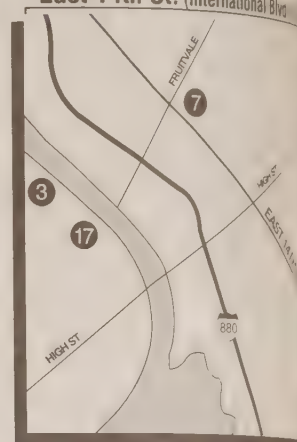
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www.bestcarbuy.com

DODGE
20. Antioch Dodge (G-1)
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FORD
6. Broadway Ford (C-4)
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21. Ed Chovanes Ford (C-4)
13889 E. 14th St., San Leandro
(510) 352-2000 www.chovanes.com

CHEVROLET
**COCHRAN
& CELLI**
3330 Broadway Auto Row
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19. Hayward Pontiac • Buick • GMC
21994 Mission Blvd.
(510) 582-4436

HYUNDAI
8. Marina Square Auto Center (D-5)
1066 Marina Blvd., San Leandro
(510) 251-8300

ISUZU
9. Cochran & Celli Auto Center (C-4)
3330 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 245-1985
www.bestcarbuy.com

KIA
7. Lloyd Wise Kia (C-4)
10550 E. 14th St. (International Blvd.) Oakland
(510) 638-4000

MAZDA
10. Cochran & Celli Auto Center (C-4)
3330 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 588-2378
www.bestcarbuy.com

NISSAN
11. Connell Nissan (C-4)
3000 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 245-1985

12. Marina Square Auto Center (D-5)
1152 Marina Blvd., San Leandro
(510) 347-4000

20. Antioch Nissan (G-1)
1615 West 10th St.
(925) 755-2600

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(510) 582-4436

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13. Downtown Saab/Subaru (C-4)
4145 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 547-4436
www.downtownsaab.com

SATURN
14. Saturn of Oakland (C-4)
2355 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 839-6400

SUBARU
15. Downtown Saab/Subaru (C-4)
4145 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 547-4436
www.downtownsubaru.com

TOYOTA
16. Downtown Toyota (C-4)
4145 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
(510) 547-4436
www.downtowntoyota.com

17. Ron Goode Toyota (C-4)
2424 Clement Ave., Alameda
(800) 574-9106
www.rongoodetoyota.com

18. Toyota of Berkeley (B-3)
2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
(510) 845-2530
www.toyotaofberkeley.com

20. Antioch Toyota (G-1)
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SAAB
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Saturn of Oakland
2355 Broadway Auto Row
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TOYOTA
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Join our team working with...
Skills req'd: a. phones,
computers, filing, social skills
a must. Motivated self-starter
wanted. Full time/benefits
\$14/hr. OOEE. Fax resume
(925) 776-4532 Karan

SECRETARY PT for fln. plan-
ner 20 hrs/wk. \$10/hr. Fax
925-944-7474 Ptn. 977-2322

SECRETARY-PT flm. 7 hrs. Filing,
typing, etc. area. may work at
home. \$10-530-3711

Secretary/Recept.
1000 hrs. 18, 1999. 1st shift.
\$35K. Send resume/cv. letter
to: E.B. Valador, School
94803 or fax 510-229-3411

SECRETARY (SCHOOL)
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A shift available in
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RESEARCHER-Exp. whom-
profit social services, re-
search, methods, grants, re-
ports, v. 2000. Fax resume
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SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR
VISORHOUSE MGR. for 20
residential, setting. \$1800-
\$1800 per month. Fax re-
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Services is a leader in the
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school, or other community
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support, information, and
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parent or relative of special
needs child. For immediate
consideration, send your
resume to:

1540 River Park Dr., #213,
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Fax: 916-361-0834.
Job #0408-0394. EEO

SOCIAL SERVICES
Director of Workforce Develop-
ment, management, training,
employment & training programs.
Must have 5 yrs. demon-
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Fax: 916-361-0834. EEO

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programs, inc. 2500 Bessie
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Broker Dealer seeks custom-
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TEACHER
Children in Pleasant Hill area
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FT teacher for infant, toddler &
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FT/PT, after school
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Math teacher for subjects
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283-2101, ext. 222

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December 17, 1999

Asian phyllo purses are exotic holiday tidbits

By Jane Shook
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Shrimp and cream cheese
you make isn't good enough
for a party down!

means offering guests some
that are out of the ordi-
one knockout finger food will
it. It should be gorgeous
delicious and look like you
thel to make it. And as long
it's fresh, it should be easy
to do.

Appetizers are pretty little
phyllo kisses filled with an
flavored stir-fry of chicken,
chestnuts and green onions.
For meats may be used, but
many people laying off the
meat, chicken is a safe choice
that would work fine in the
box.

Kisses look like they took for-
mation, but I used a lot of
oil. To cut preparation time,
I bottled stir-fry sauce from
the market. The flavor I used
was ginger, but other vari-
ants such as teriyaki and sweet-
sauce would taste good, too.

The filling, boneless chicken
are cut into 1/4-inch cubes
stir-fried with sliced green
onions and diced water chestnuts.
Add water chestnuts, stack
and cut them into fourths.
The most time-consuming chore
with phyllo dough is lay-
ing and buttering the thin sheets

of dough. I dramatically shortened
the process by using butter spray.
The product is sold in aerosol cans
next to the vegetable-oil sprays in
supermarkets. It actually is butter-
flavored oil, but in savory items
such as the kisses, it works well.

The purses are made by peeling
two sheets of phyllo from a stack,
placing them on the counter and
spraying the top sheet with the but-
ter spray. The two stacked sheets
are cut into eight oblongs and a tea-
spoon of the stir-fry is mounded in
the center of each. The dough is
gathered around the filling like a
drawstring purse and twisted slightly,
then sprayed again with butter
spray.

Phyllo is not tricky to work with
if you follow the rules. The dough
must be thawed properly in the re-
frigerator or the sheets will stick to-
gether and tear. After the dough is
removed from the package and un-
folded, it must be covered with wax
paper and a damp towel to prevent
the sheets from drying out and be-
coming brittle.

You'll need less than half of a
box for this recipe, so peel off about
half of the sheets in one chunk and
replace the remaining sheets in the
inner sleeve to save for another use.

The Asian Phyllo Purse may be
assembled up to a day in advance
and stored on a cookie sheet, un-
covered, in the refrigerator. Just be-
fore the party starts, heat them in
the oven until golden brown. The



KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE

ASIAN PHYLLO appetizers are perfect bite-size Christmas party noshes of filo dough filled with a stir-fry chicken mixture.

hot, crisp phyllo purses will be the
hit of the party.

Asian Phyllo Purse

3/4 lb. boneless, skinless chicken
breast halves
2 tbsp. oil
1/2 cup sliced green onions
1 can (5 oz.) sliced water chestnuts,
in 1/4-inch pieces
1/2 cup bottled stir-fry sauce, any
flavor
8 sheets thawed phyllo dough
Butter-flavored oil spray

Cut chicken into 1/4-inch pieces.
Heat oil over high heat in a large,
nonstick skillet. Stir-fry chicken for
1 minute. Add onions and water
chestnuts and stir-fry 1 minute
longer. Add sauce and stir-fry until
liquid has evaporated to a glaze.
Set aside.

Peel 2 sheets of phyllo dough
from stack, keeping remaining
sheets covered with wax paper and
a damp towel. Place the two sheets,
one on top of the other, on a work

surface. Spray the top sheet with
butter-flavored oil spray.

Cut the two sheets in half hori-
zontally, then in half vertically. Cut
each oblong in half vertically again,
to produce 8 oblongs.

Place a teaspoon of the stir-fry
in the center of each oblong of
dough. Gather the dough around
the filling like a drawstring purse
working gently to prevent tearing
the dough.

Twist top slightly.

Place on a baking sheet and
spray the outside of the kisses with
butter-flavored spray.

Repeat with remaining dough
and filling until filling is used up.

Bake immediately or store the
kisses for up to 24 hours on the
cookie sheet, uncovered, in the re-
frigerator.

Bake in a preheated, 350-degree
oven for 12 to 15 minutes, until
golden brown.

Makes about 26.

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Try Coq au Napa: A modern lean chicken dish

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — When adventurous Americans plunged into French cooking in the 1960s, many of them embraced coq au vin, a classic braised chicken laden with mushrooms, onions, and, of course, wine. For the much more modern Coq au Napa that he serves at Citronelle in Georgetown, Michel Richard has kept and even enlivened the flavors of the original but has tripped away much of its saturated fat.

"In the original recipe, the bird was a rooster — usually an old and tough one," says Richard, who lived and worked in California for 20 years. "So you marinated it in red wine for a few days to soften it. The red wine also preserved the bird a bit and kept bugs away. You'd cook that tough rooster for a long time to tenderize it and add carrots and onions and tomatoes for sweetness

and mushrooms for extra flavor. Bacon was used for fat because peasants always had a piece of bacon around. That added flavor, too — French people eat a lot of pork and develop a taste for it. Then by the time the peasant got home from the fields, everything was ready. Most of the time the dish would be served with steamed potatoes.

"But now people want to be skinny, so in this recipe instead of bacon there is smoked turkey to preserve the smoky flavor. Since we use a chicken rather than a rooster, you don't need more than a day to tenderize it — that strong alcohol flavor can be too gamy. And the chicken is skinned: in the braising process, the chicken skin becomes so soft, I don't like the texture of it. My customers don't like it either — it gets soggy, like eating fat."

In the classic recipe, butter and flour were used to thicken the sauce. Instead, Richard uses pureed car-

rots. "To give a nice sweet flavor," he says. And he favors shiitake mushrooms. "I love their firm texture," he says. "The ordinary ones turned to rubber. Shiitakes can be cooked a long time and keep their shape, and they add a new dimension to the dish."

As for the braising wine, "Use a new one," he says, "like a Pinot Noir or a Sirah." Why a new one? "The old ones are very expensive."

Coq au Napa (4 servings)

4 large skinless chicken legs (drumsticks with thighs attached)
4 sprigs fresh thyme or 1 tablespoon dried, crumbled
4 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
2 cups dry red wine (preferably Cabernet Sauvignon)
4 tablespoons olive oil
2 slices smoked turkey, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/4-inch batons
16 pearl onions, peeled
1 cup unsalted chicken stock or low-

sodium broth
1 tablespoon tomato paste
3 carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
12 ounces shiitake mushrooms, trimmed and sliced
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Place the chicken legs in a single layer in a large nonreactive bowl. Add the thyme, garlic and wine; cover tightly and refrigerate, turning occasionally, overnight.

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. In a large, heavy ovenproof pot over medium heat, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil. Add the turkey batons and cook, stirring occasionally, until brown. Add the onions and cook, stirring, until golden on all sides. Add the chicken stock or broth and tomato paste and scrape the bottom of the pan with the spoon. Add the carrots and cook until tender. Using a slotted spoon, remove

Please see MODERN, Page 3

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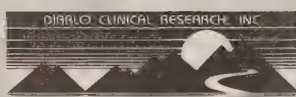
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MODERN

Bring the mixture to a boil. Transfer the chicken, cover the pot and transfer it to the preheated oven. Cook for 15 minutes. When the chicken, stir the pan juices and cook, cover for about 15 minutes longer. When the chicken is cooking, transfer the carrots to a food processor or blender and puree. In a skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil. Sauté mushrooms and sauté until they are lightly browned and have released their juices. When the chicken is cooked through, in a large

clean skillet, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Transfer the chicken from the pot to the skillet; set the pot aside.

Cook the chicken until all sides are browned. Set aside.

While the chicken is browning, add the pureed carrots and mushrooms to the liquid in the pot.

Bring the mixture to a boil and cook until the sauce is thickened and reduced by about one-half (you will have about 1 1/2 cups of sauce).

If using fresh thyme, remove and discard the sprigs. Season the sauce with salt and pepper to taste.

Transfer the onions and mushrooms to individual serving plates, leaving room for the chicken.

Using tongs, roll the chicken pieces in the sauce and arrange on the plates.

Spoon the remaining sauce over the chicken.

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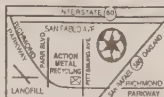
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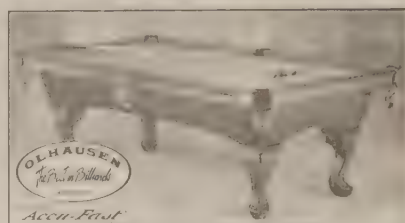
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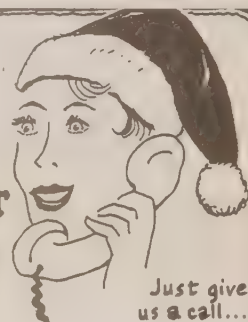
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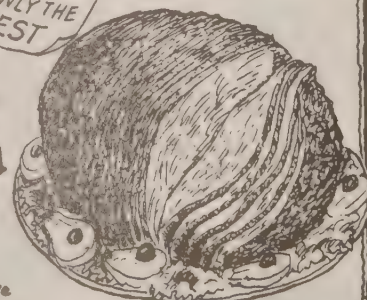
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Beers dress up for a millennial celebration

By Eric Asimov
N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

No season inspires as many festive beers as winter, and with the millennial excitement this year, the keg is overflowing.

Winter brews come in many guises, some simply flavored with seasonal spices like cloves and nutmeg. Others are thick, inky black stouts or powerful brews known as barley wines, which have an alcohol content of around 12 percent, like wine, rather than the 5 percent more typical of beer.

Sometimes, seasonal beers can be a real stretch, like pumpkin ales and coffee-flavored stouts.

Why are celebratory beers so prevalent? Unlike wine, which is at the mercy of the annual cycle of grape growing and harvesting, beer can be made at any time.

Its basic components — water, yeast, grain and hops — are always available, and almost all brews are ready to drink within a few months of their inception.

Beers and ales can be made practically on a whim, and tailored to almost any occasion.

The Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., one of the best breweries in the United States, sells its excellent Celebration Ale every winter, but changes the recipe each year. It's the same with the Boston Beer Co., which this year has produced a beautifully balanced Sam Adams Winter Lager.

Like winter stews and roasts, most winter brews are heavier bodied than the year-round beers. They're meant for sipping with food or in front of a fire rather than for



NEW YORK TIMES

GEORGE GALE & CO.'S powerful sharp ale from England typifies the winter ale, in its being heavier bodied and flavored with seasonal spices.

chugging on the deck.

Brooklyn Brewery's Black Chocolate Stout would go well with chocolate desserts, although the name refers to the color of the roasted barley. The same brewery's

Monster Ale pairs well with Stilton cheese.

Here are seven celebratory examples, from lightest to heaviest.

Please see BEERS, Page 4

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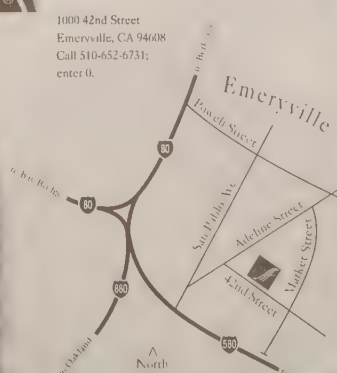
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Please see **ROOTS**, Page 7

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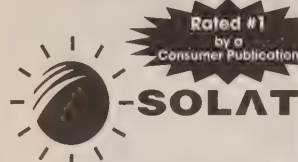
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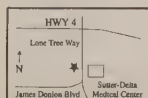
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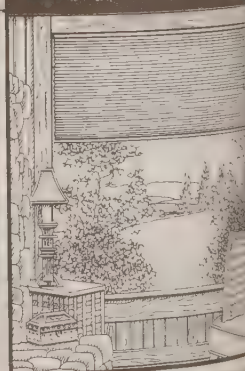
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...homogrown rutabagas tend to
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...raised bed is ideal but ordi-

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Peeling is the hardest part.

Then they are tossed with fla-
vorings and popped in the oven.

A platter of roasted roots is a per-
fect side dish to a good cut of roast
beef, a fresh ham or a joint of lamb.

ROASTED ROOTS

(Serves 4 to 6)

1 medium to large rutabaga

1 pound parsnips

1 large celeriac

1/4 cup olive or vegetable oil

5 to 10 cloves peeled whole garlic,
optional

2 tablespoons fresh minced rose-
mary, optional

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black
pepper

Heat the oven to 350. Peel the
vegetables and cut them into 1-inch
squarish chunks.

Place in a mixing bowl. Add the
oil, garlic, rosemary, salt and pep-
per. Toss to coat. Place the mixture
in a casserole dish, cover with alu-
minum foil and bake for 20 min-
utes. Remove foil and roast an ad-
ditional 15 to 20 minutes.

Laurence Sombke is the author of
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"Omelettes: Eggs at Their Best" and
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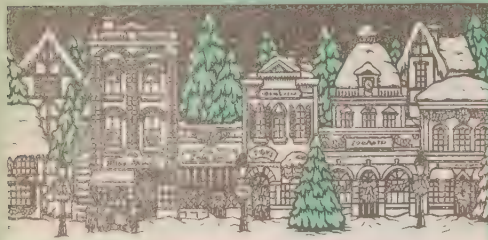
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FINE HOME FURNISHINGS

- ◆ Upscale Traditional & Contemporary Furniture
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All proceeds benefit The Wellness community of San Francisco East Bay
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We specialize in the consignment sale of quality furniture, accessories...and fine jewelry.
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Hill's Newspapers Inc.

Last Minute Gift Ideas

Mother • Father • Sister • Brother • Wife

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Downtown BERKELEY

Excellent Food, Fashions, Services, & Entertainment ... Here at Home



MAIL BOXES ETC.

**Holiday Shipping
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**Three Convenient
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**\$2 OFF
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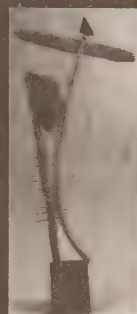
Berkeley Farmers' Market

**8th Annual
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Benefit for the Ecology Center

**Saturdays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18
10 am - 3 pm**

Center Street at MLK, Jr. Way
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Free Admission
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BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATER • Berkeley High campus
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Adults \$17 • Under 12/Senior \$13
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NEW & USED BOOKS, CDS, MAGAZINES AND CARDS

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Holiday Music & Entertainment

*Saturday Afternoons in Downtown Berkeley
for people age. 2 to 92*

Saturday, December 18 • 1 to 3pm

BART Plaza (at Shattuck and Center)

— RAIN OR SHINE —

DECEMBER 18:

Fabulous Flugelhorns

(flugelhorn quintet)

Ebenezer

(the Friendly Scrooge)

Enjoy Holiday Caroling

University Avenue
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think global, shop local



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Please give generously to light up a life.

*"It was a ray of
light to me in a
difficult time."*

When Ethel received a food delivery last year, it meant more to her than just a bag of groceries. It also meant personalized, professional care **all year round**. That's why JFCS is here, helping our East Bay community **every day**.

Please send your tax deductible contribution to:

Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay

2484 Shattuck Ave., Suite 210, Berkeley, CA 94704 • (510) 704-7475

JFCS serves people of any religious or ethnic backgrounds of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

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*Santa's Helper
since 1908*

Lee Frank

MANUFACTURING JEWELERS

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2200 SHATTUCK AVENUE • BERKELEY • 843-6410

WE'RE BACK!

**THE KIDS' ROOM
in Berkeley**

Now you don't have
to drive to another
universe to find us.

**GREAT FURNITURE
FOR KIDS!**



Bring this ad for a gift deduction of \$25 off any bed purchase.

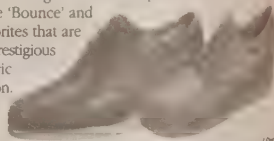
Offer expires December 31, 1999.

Berkeley Kids' Room

2474 Shattuck Ave. (510) 841-5068
Tues-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5

SERIOUS FOOT CARE

Barefoot Freedom® shoes are often prescribed to relieve foot discomfort caused by arthritis, diabetes and years of ill-fitting shoes. Extra toe room, soft linings and added depth for orthotics make 'Bounce' and 'Stroll' casual favorites that are accepted by the prestigious American Podiatric Medical Association. For serious foot care, try the advanced comfort of Barefoot Freedom® today.



Exceptional Comfort Footwear For Men and Women

PAUL'S SHOE SERVICE

Expert Shoe Repairs • All Types of Shoes • While-U-Wait Service

2281 SHATTUCK AVE., BERKELEY • 843-1570

(1 1/2 blocks from Downtown BART)

Validated Parking at EZ PARK, Center St., Great Western & Kittredge St. Garage

North Berkeley

Test ing chocolate like the pros do

...chocolate lover will tell
...that leaves an oily or waxy
...mouth isn't worth a hill
...of beans.

"Good chocolate never has an after-taste or creates a sensation of cloying sweetness," says Julia Wesson, president of the sensory evaluation firm.

Wesson's work as a taste tester for food and beverage makers may sound like a sweet deal. But she has exacting standards for her clients, who include Brown & Haley, a family-owned candy company.

So how do you know when you're biting into a piece of great chocolate? These are the qualities that please the pro's palate.

- The chocolate coating snaps cleanly, rather than crumbling or possessing a waxy feeling.
- The cream center feels smooth and silky, not grainy, gritty or chewy.
- Center and coating flavors are compatible, rather than interfering with or detracting from each other.
- The center tastes distinctly like the flavor it represents. For instance, a raspberry center should taste like fresh or cooked raspberries.

Wesson also says the center and

chocolate should "chew down" evenly and disappear from the palate at about the same time.

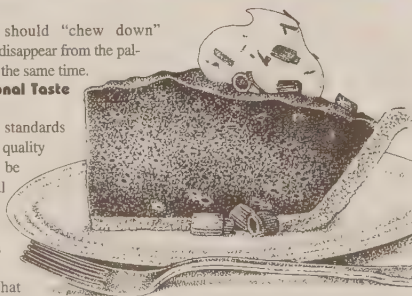
International Taste Tests

While the standards for judging quality candy may be the same all over the world,

taste is a different matter. What tastes good to people in the United States may bring just the opposite reaction from consumers in, say, Japan.

"The Japanese don't like candy that's too sweet," says Brown & Haley President Mark Haley, who markets his company's boxed chocolates around the world.

"Should we use milk or dark chocolate for candy we sell in Japan? Definitely milk chocolate. Dark chocolate is unacceptable to 80 percent of the world."



Haley attributes his company's success to a near obsession with producing high-quality products made of natural ingredients and careful study of every market where he does business. Haley's discovered that all markets have one thing in common—you can judge a piece of candy by its coating.

"Its appearance should be glossy and shiny," Wesson says, "with no center leaking out and no white spots or 'dusting' on the chocolate."

SAVE \$1.00

On 1 lb. of
BUTTER COOKIES

SAVE \$1.00

On 1 loaf of
CRANBERRY NUTBREAD

1 coupon per customer per visit. Valid with coupon. Exp. 12-24-99

Virginia Bakery
1690 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley • 848-6711

Will Beat any GOOD GUYS Advertisised Price!

BEST PRICE

We guarantee the lowest price for 60 days on all major appliances, electronics, and home furnishings. If we don't, we'll give you \$100.00. No cash back, but we'll give you a \$100.00 gift certificate to your favorite store.

(Bring in Their Ad)

BEST SERVICE

Our Service Department is one of the largest and best in Northern California. 7 day/week. No appointment. Free in-home repair services. No extra service charges.

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Last-Minute Gifts

Profiles in courage

Around this time of year, millions of American households are receiving greeting cards produced by the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). On the back of each card is a little character named "Speedy," based on PVA member Dick Slovianeczek, who now resides in Arizona.

In 1946, cartoonist and PVA

member Wilder Johnson was asked to draw an emblem, or logo, for PVA's California chapter and was introduced to Slovianeczek. Slovianeczek, in an old wooden wheelchair, became the inspiration for "Speedy."

"Speedy" was adopted as an official PVA symbol in 1955, and registered with the United States Patent Office four years later.

The money received by PVA in response to these mailings and other solicitations is used to improve the lives of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. Here are some examples:

- Paralyzed Veterans of America's Spinal Cord Research Foundation funds critical research targeted toward developing treatment for paralysis and improving the lives of individuals with paralysis until therapies to treat paralysis become available. To date, more than \$23 million has been spent to support this research.

- Paralyzed Veterans of America involves thousands of wheelchair users in sports and recreation activities by sponsoring almost every national wheelchair sporting event in the United States—including archery, basketball, bass fishing, bowling, quad rugby, snow skiing, swimming, tennis, track and field, trapshooting and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the nation.

Paralyzed Veterans of America has won numerous awards and citations for its service to veterans and people with disabilities, including:

- The Distinguished Service Award of the President of the United States in recognition of "historic contributions over a period of years to the rights, quality of life, productivity and empowerment of people with disabilities."

- In 1997 and 1998, the Secretary's Award from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for co-sponsorship of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

- A Presidential Citation for its college scholarship fund for the children of Vietnam veterans.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally-chartered veterans organization, provides a wide range of services to its members, all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury or disease. To learn more about PVA, visit its Web site at www.pva.org.

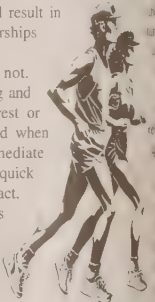
Work out an early New Year's Resolution

by Joe Montana

Every year after the holiday season, millions of Americans find themselves promising to find a way to get themselves into shape. Most proclamations to get fit, however, quickly become unfulfilled New Year Resolutions and result in unused gym memberships and dusty ab-rollers.

More often than not, people start out strong and wind up losing interest or becoming discouraged when they don't see immediate results. There are no quick fixes to fitness. In fact, this strategy often leads to injury.

This year, try to implement a work out routine prior to all to those holiday meals and stay one step ahead of your belt buckle by finding a consistent exercise program you can begin in the weeks prior to the holiday



would push too hard
be forced to watch the
sideline nursing again

JOHNSTON MEDICAL
IN BERKELEY SINCE 1955

MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

Bring in this ad for a Free Gift!

LARGEST INVENTORY IN BAY AREA

JOHNSTON MEDICAL
COMPLETE LINE OF HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
(510) 843-2488 2801 SHATTUCK AVE., BERKELEY
M-F 8:30-5, SAT. 10-3:45 • PARKING IN REAR

Come Celebrate This Holiday Season With A Beautiful New Pride Lift Chair or a Pride Scooter! The Ultimate In Style & Comfort

East Bay Nursery's Christmas Shoppe Is Open!

Mon.-Sat 8:30-5:00 • Sun 10:00-5:00

Featuring the largest collection of European, blown glass ornaments in the Bay Area from designers like Christopher Radko, Larry Fraga Designs, Old World Christmas, Mia and many more

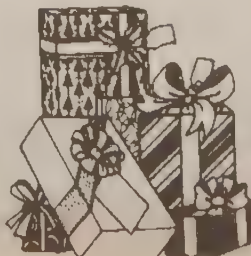
This Year's Special Artist Larry Fraga

Larry is an Oakland resident who designs and paints a line of highly collectible Christmas ornaments. He has recently been chosen by Disney as one of their featured artists and rising stars

FRESH CUT TREES have just arrived!

Choose from:
Noble Fir, Silver Tip, White Fir, & Douglas Fir.
We also carry a large selection of Living Christmas Trees.

2332 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley
(510) 845-6490



Clip this coupon & save at our store

Season's Greeting from Betty's Hallmark

430 El Cerrito Plaza • El Cerrito

2-4-6-8

Who do we appreciate YOU!

Bring in this Holiday Special coupon

\$2 OFF a \$15 purchase

\$4 OFF a \$30 purchase

\$6 OFF a \$40 purchase

\$8 OFF a \$50 purchase

Valid customer coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers. Regular price items only. Not valid on Classics or Hallmark Keepsake Ornaments. Voided customer. Offer expires Dec. 31, 1998.

Antiques By The Bay, Inc. Presents The Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire

First Sunday Every Month

**Sunday,
January 2, 2000**

Feb 6 • Mar 5 • Apr 2, 2000

**Bay Area's Largest Outdoor
Antiques & Collectibles Show**

Over 500 booths

Jewelry • Furniture • Linens

Glassware • Fine Art • Etc.

**All Items Twenty Years or Older
No Reproductions**

**Located at the former
Naval Air Station in Alameda**

Unlimited free parking

General Admission 9:00am \$3.00

Early Buyer 7:30am \$5.00

VIP Entry 6:00am \$10.00

Under 16 Yrs Free

(Sorry, no pets)

24 HR INFO (510) 869-5428

★ **The One - Stop Ultimate Shopping Experience** ★

★ **Special Announcement** ★

January Appraisal Booth

Guest Appraisers

Provided By The Alameda Museum

**11 am - 2 pm: Bring in that unusual item,
unique treasure or family heirloom. Find out
what it is, where it came from and what it
might be worth.**

Appraisals \$2.00 per item • 3 items for \$5.00

No admission charge for appraisals

Proceeds benefit the Alameda Museum

Verbal appraisals not meant for insurance or sales purposes)

Directions to the Antiques Faire

From San Francisco, Marin or Sacramento take Hwy 80 to Hwy 880 South.

Exit Hwy 880 at Broadway/Alameda exit. Turn right at the first light.

Proceed down 5th Street to Broadway, enter the Webster Tube

to Alameda. Proceed through Webster Tube

and stay in right lane. Turn right at Atlantic

Avenue (first light). Proceed 3/4 miles to

main gate (Corner of Main & Atlantic).

Enter Alameda Point through gate

and follow signs to event.

From the South Bay

Take HWY 880N. Take the Broadway

Exit (Downtown Oakland). Turn right

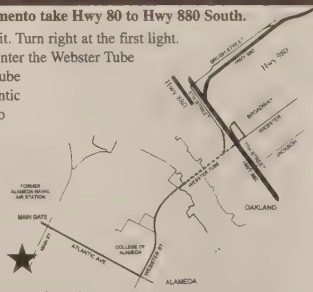
at Broadway. Turn right at 7th St.

Turn right at Webster. Enter Webster Tube to Alameda.

Proceed through Webster Tube and stay in right lane. Turn right at Atlantic Avenue (first

light). Proceed 3/4 miles to Main Gate (Corner of Main & Atlantic). Enter Alameda Point

through gate and follow signs to event.



College Avenue

Moderation is the key to enjoying the season

Something that many of us should go overboard on during the holidays is moderation. Here are some sensible tips that will help you enjoy the holidays without overindulging:

- Gift-giving is also an area where many of us tend to overindulge. You can avoid trouble by planning ahead. Set up a budget before shopping and bring just enough cash to cover it, leaving your credit cards at home. Remember, a thoughtful gift isn't necessarily an expensive one.

- Think about cutting down on next year's holiday budget by shopping this year. Take advantage of end-of-season sales. This is the best time to stock up on greeting cards and holiday gift wrap.

- At holiday parties and dinners, everything looks so good it's tempting to go overboard. Keep in mind that it takes about 20 minutes for your stom-

ach to tell your brain it's full. So wait a while after eating that first portion, and you may find you don't need a second helping.

- If you've got to munch at the office Christmas party, think in terms of better choices. For instance, try

heading for the raw vegetable platter and pretzels instead of the fried chicken and tortilla chips.

- Moderation is also the right course when it comes to alcoholic beverages. If alcohol is being served, know your limit and stick to it.

- Set up a designated-driver system with your family and friends for any occasion. The designated driver is the person who drinks non-alcoholic beverages and serves as driver for the group. Take turns. That way, it's easy.

By following these tips, you can be sure that everyone, including yourself, has a great holiday season.

Wrap it right for the Holidays

Since you've taken the time to choose the perfect holiday gift, why not take a few more minutes to ensure that it arrives safely by wrapping and addressing correctly? Follow these helpful tips from the U.S. Postal Service throughout the year to make sure your packages are delivered to the correct address-on time and in good shape.

- Select a container strong enough to protect the contents during handling. Fiberboard containers are generally strong enough to ship most materials. Your local post office offers packaging products designed for safe and sound delivery.

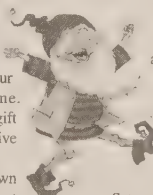
- Leave space inside the carton for cushioning. The container should have enough space to hold the contents plus cushioning to prevent damage. Leakproof containers and mailing materials should be used if shipping liquids. Items which have an odor should be placed in a container which is impermeable to the contents.

- Prevent contents from shifting and absorbing shock by using good cushioning materials such as polystyrene, shredded or rolled newspapers, bubble plastic and fiberboard inserts.

- Use reinforced tape - not twine and cord; they tend to catch and bind in mail processing equipment.

- Mark the address and the Zip Code clearly and make special markings to alert the postal service to packages that are fragile or should not bend. If you are shipping framed photographs, it is a good idea to remove the glass and wrap it separately.

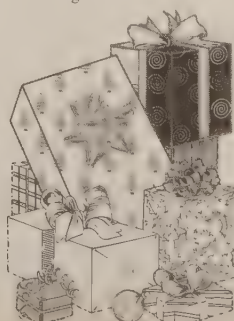
- Include a return address label inside the package prior to wrapping and sending.



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Montclair Village

Tips for coping with the stress of the Holidays

By Dr. Lucille C. Peszot

The holiday season can be one of the most stressful times for many individuals or families. The holiday season is usually a time for love, family, happiness, peace and goodwill toward everyone.

We hear about "perfect" family gatherings, "perfect" gift choices and times where everyone is happy, kind and loving. Unfortunately, the holidays and our desire to make everything happen the way we would like often don't turn out the way advertisements describe.

For many, the holiday season is a rushed attempt to do everything in a short period of time. For some, especially those who are faced with the challenges of unemployment, limited funds, debts or who may be grieving a death, a serious personal or family illness or the loss of a job, relationship or any other challenges, the holidays tend to increase stress.

At times when families gather, those times may be full of stress and may raise difficult memories. During this family-oriented holiday time, those without families, those whose families may be far away or estranged or who may no longer be alive, may often feel intense sadness or loneliness.

Some tips to help you enjoy the holiday season

1. Start early to plan to do the things you want to or need to, such as deciding how you are going to spend your holidays and with whom, planning for buying and wrapping gifts, preparing holiday treats or your home if you are having guests or making travel arrangements. Remember that procrastination is very stressful.

2. Avoid being alone at the holidays. If you cannot be with your family or if you have no family, celebrate with friends, seniors, those others who

may be alone, in hospitals or hospices or volunteer at missions or centers to help others who may have no place to go during the holiday. Focus on love and caring rather than on your own loneliness or sadness.

3. Simplify your life and have some fun. Enjoy the moments associated with the holidays, the beautiful lights and decorations, the holiday music, children's faces, the holiday flowers and the "spirit" that seems to make many do a little more or smile a little often.


4. If your holidays are spent with family, watch any negative emotions which could arise such as anger, guilt or fear. Put on a "psychological armor" against those family members or others who may irritate you, argue with you or put you down. Let your "armor" protect you against the hurts or frustrations that can arise.

5. Avoid over-committing or doing too much. Incorporate new traditions, new beginnings and greater peace in your holidays. Aim for the best without distress, smile a lot more, be a little kinder and a little gentler. Make time to refurbish personally, and enjoy. Happy Holidays!

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Build up your immune system for a healthy Holiday season

Does it seem you always get a cold at the most inopportune times, such as the holidays? Stress, lack of sleep and airplane travel can all lower your resistance. During the holidays when you are extra busy, you are also the most vulnerable to illness.

This holiday season, you can build up your immune system. Some of the best known immune system supporters are vitamin C, zinc and the herb echinacea.

Think Zinc

Since it isn't easy to get even the minimum daily value of zinc from your diet, a zinc supplement could help. Zinc lozenges come in handy especially when you feel the first tinkle of a sore throat. Because it is a lozenge it enters the system quickly and is available in flavors.

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Since the 1900's, Echinacea (or purple coneflower) has been used to encourage the body's own immune-system response. When you think you might be catching a cold, that's the time for echinacea.

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Jack London Square

Friday Tree powered with clean renewable solar energy

Friday tree at Jack London Square has a special quality to it. For the first time, part of the light the tree will be powered by renewable solar energy. GreenMountain.com and PowerLight Corporation have proposed solar panels to be temporarily installed on the roof of TGI Friday's at Jack London Square during the holiday season. The solar panels will be connected to a standard grid power with renewable energy to light the tree and decorations at the

providing sponsor for this holiday events at Jack London Square. The Center for Resource Conservation, GreenMountain.com and PowerLight Corporation are displaying solar panel and educational information at the base of the tree during the season.

will provide an excellent example for the people of Oakland and the benefits of switching to renewable energy for their businesses.

panels were installed on the roof and will remain until the end of 2000. "We are ecstatic about the use of renewable energy for holiday decorations," said Dan Shugar, President, PowerLight Corporation.

PowerLight is proud to manufacture the Power Guard system, a 30% renewable power source. The Friday tree at Jack London Square, says Dan Shugar, President, PowerLight



Solar panels installed by GreenMountain.com and PowerLight provide 30 percent of the energy to light the Jack London Holiday tree

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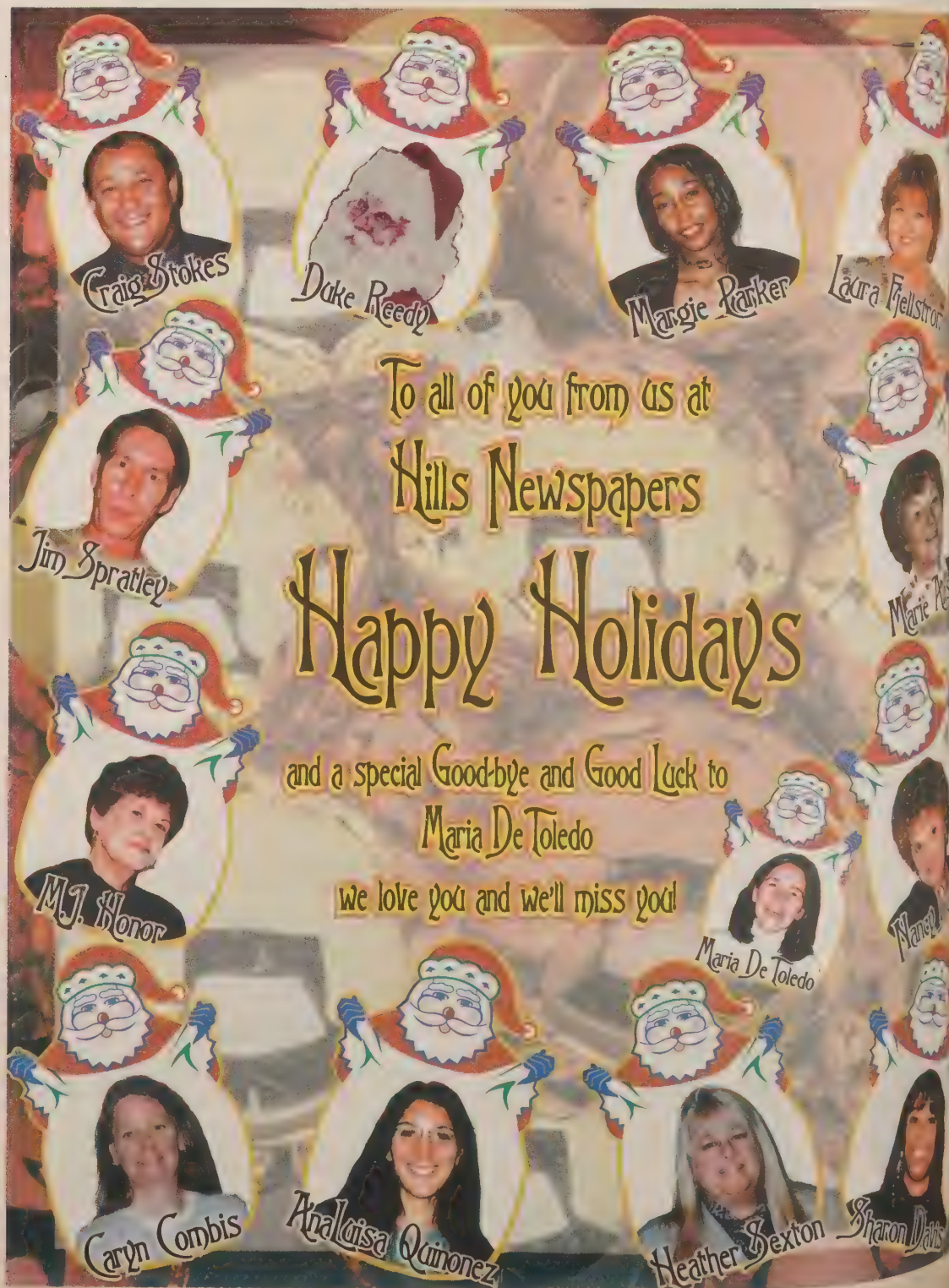
How to be the perfect guest

From casual get-togethers for tree trimming to formal dinner parties or those "just drop in for a drink" occasions, people love to entertain at holiday time. While most hosts don't want their guests to do the work involved in arranging a fun party, they do appreciate guests who make an effort to help. Here are some tips to help ensure you'll be at the top of the holiday invitation lists in your circle:

- Offer to pick up and drop off other guests to and from the occasion.
- Don't arrive early or too late. Don't overstay your welcome. Find out when most of the other guests plan to leave. Phone ahead if you're going to be very late.
- Offer to bring something, or surprise your host with gift.



Jack London Square would like to thank the following sponsors of the 23rd Annual Lighted Yacht Parade awards ceremony: Best Western Inn at the Square, Chevy's Fresh Mex (Alameda), Il Pescatore Ristorante, Murasaki, Scott's Seafood Restaurant, The Fat Lady, Waterfront Plaza Hotel, Old Spaghetti Factory, Kincaid's Bayhouse, Executive Inn - Embarcadero Cove.



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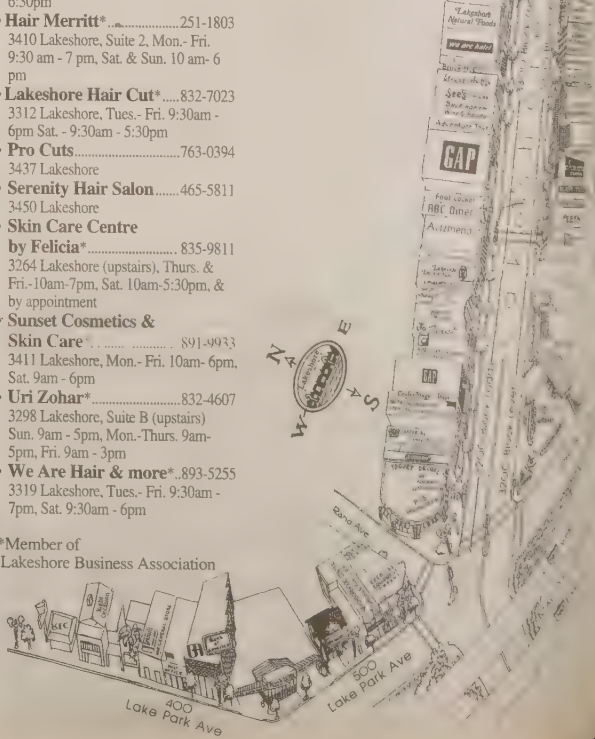
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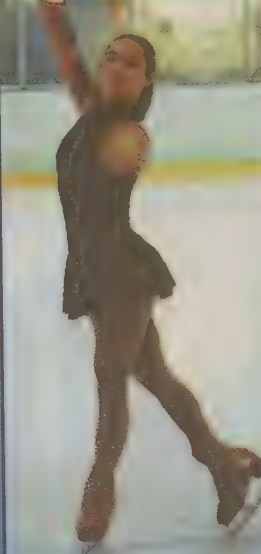


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Traditional Italian Treats from A.G. Ferrari

by Adrienne De Angelo

Come Christmas, a hush comes over the streets of Italy. Everyone has gone to spend the holiday with their families. In the warmth of the fire-light, families gather 'round their dinner tables, exchanging stories and eating foods steeped in ritual and tradition.

Italy certainly does not lack for good food during the rest of the year, but the Italians pull out all the stops for the holidays, especially when it comes to sweets, which are actually one of the few foods that Italians buy rather than make themselves.

Panettone, one of Italy's most famous holiday treats, is often given to family and friends on the night of the Nativity.

This sweet bread's origins date back to the Middle Ages.

In 15th century Milan, there lived a poor baker called Toni who had a beautiful daughter. When a wealthy aristocrat fell in love with her, the

young man offered his services to Toni as a baker's apprentice.

Soon enough, the unlikely pair created a variation of the traditional bread of the time by mixing in more butter, more eggs, candied orange peel and raisins.

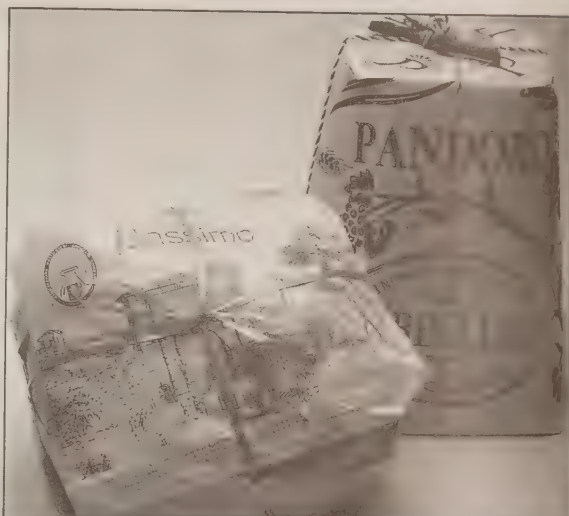
Wealthy Milanese housewives flocked to the bakery to buy their creation, known as pan di Toni. The name was later corrupted to panettone, the light and buttery holiday cake that is now popular all over the world.

Massimo di Crino's panettone is baked in small batches with top-quality raisins, candied orange peel, butter, and minimal sugar.

Each one is moist and fruity, and tastefully wrapped in gold paper and tied with a ribbon.

Some say this panettone is the best in Italy. Available exclusively at A. G. Ferrari Foods for \$23.95 (2,000g loaf).

Although panettone is eaten world-



Two of Italy's most famous holiday breads: Massimo di Crino Panettone and Perbellini Pandoro, at A. G. Ferrari Foods this holiday season.

wide, no self-respecting Italian would bring one to a Veronese household. That's pandoro territory. Pandoro, or "golden bread," is a simple, melt-in-

your-mouth sponge cake from Verona.

Ernesto Perbellini makes Italy's best: delicate, yet rich and flavorful at

Guglielmi. A.G. Ferrari's Chef, prefers his pandoro with a thick, cream hazelnut-chocolate



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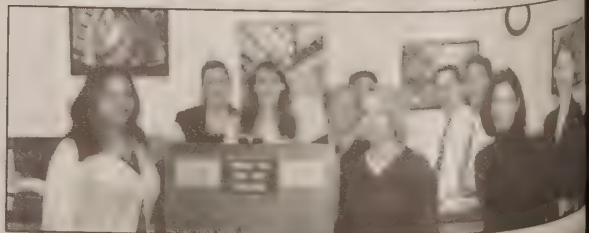
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Montclair Village

Montclair Christmas party mixer

The Montclair Business Association and Montclair Lion's club held their third annual Christmas Party at the Piedmont home of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wong on Wednesday, December 1.

The spectacular social event happens once a year in December so that the two organizations may get together, relax, share food and drink, and have some fun before the holidays.

Familiar faces who arrived early at the party included La Donna and Al Atallah, owners of Raimondi's, Andrea Faber, owner of Hula's, and Deborah Blackburn, MA MFCC, of Montclair.

Andrea assisted Liz Silverman, MBA executive director, in setting up a generous, delectable array of food and drink. The banquet table was loaded with everything from exotic Mediterranean dishes to spicy chicken wings, and lots of fresh veggies and tasty dipping snacks. Good wines and assorted soft drinks kept the conversation alive through the evening.

The Wong's lovely home was bedecked with festive lights and holiday cheer, and genuine warmth radiated a feeling of friendship throughout.

Mike Silverman, President of the Montclair Business Association said: "it gives us a chance to meet our friends in the business community before it gets hectic during the holiday shopping."

"Gary Wong created this tradition," said Lion member, Mary Rolander. "Gary, vice president of the Lion's Club, had the idea and has been hosting the party for three years - it was his way of creating goodwill between the clubs and give them an opportunity to network. There are so many new businesses coming into the Village."

Gary Wong said, "It is a great way to share the spirit. We look forward to our next Christmas party in the year 2000, on December 6. It always falls on the first Wednesday of the month the date of the regular Montclair Business Association Meeting."



Past President Kevin McTigue and Cynthia Mayes, President of Montclair Lions Club take time to smile for the camera.

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Montclair Village

Montclair party mixer



From left, Linda Foss, Manager of California Savings with Dick and Mary Rolander, Montclair Lions club share their Christmas cheer.



From left, Linda Lorentzen, and Tom Rivelli, owner of Montclair Sporting Goods join Mike Silverman and his wife Haleema in a lively conversation.



Mr and Mrs Dennis Fong enjoying the camaraderie of good friends.

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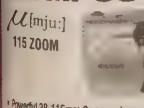
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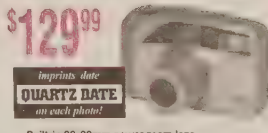


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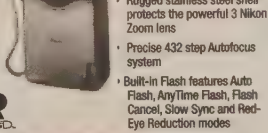
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Montclair Village

Easy To Make Door Decorations

These easy- and fun-to-make door decorations are too pretty to take down after the holidays.

Fan Decoration

Materials:

- Straw fan with handle, 12 inches in diameter
- Three baskets, 3 inches high filled with artificial berries, etc.
- Two sprays of artificial or real evergreens
- Five or six medium-sized pinecones
- Florist's wire
- Christmas ribbon, 3 inches wide by 4 feet.

Directions:

Cut five 8 inch sprays of evergreen. Staple ends to fan at base of handle. Using florist's wire, attach baskets and pine cones strategically to the evergreen sprays. Tie a double bow with ribbon. Staple bow to fan handle, covering the ends of the spray. Using wire, attach three pine cones to center of the bow. Make a hanging loop with wire; staple ends to top back of fan.

Basket Decoration

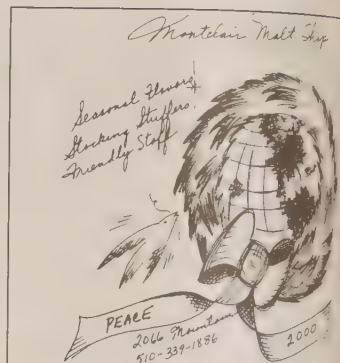
Materials:

- Half basket with flat back, 10 inches in diameter

- Green plastic foam or oasis
- Real or artificial evergreens
- Assorted Christmas balls or ornaments, 1/2 inch to 1 inch in diameter
- Fine wire
- Plaid ribbon 1 1/2 inches wide by 4 feet.

Directions:

Wedge plastic foam into basket. Cut evergreen into 16 inch sprays and push ends into plastic foam. Wire ornaments to the branches. Wrap ribbon around basket and tie into bow at side. Make a hanging loop with wire; staple ends to top back of basket.

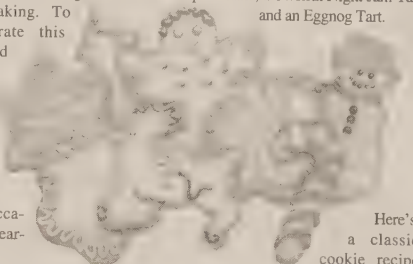


Celebrate with Holiday baking

Nothing makes it seem as much like a celebration as the fragrant scent of holiday baking. To commemorate this time-honored tradition, *Holiday Baking* (Time-Life Books) offers recipes for occasions all year-long.

With an international collection of kitchen-tested recipes from noted food authority Jeanne Thiel-Kelley, this beautiful, practical book offers a wealth of baking information and inspiration. Festive recipes include Mocha Buche de Noel (a

French chocolate Yule log), Pumpkin Spice Cake, a Twelfth Night Jam Tart and an Eggnog Tart.



Here's a classic cookie recipe

that makes celebrating easy. Sprinkle with colored sugar before baking or decorate with icing.

Holiday Cutout Cookies

- 1 cup (8 ounces/250 grams) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 3/4 cup (6 ounces/185 grams) sugar

3 egg yolks

- 1 piece vanilla bean, about 2 inches (5 centimeters) long
- 2 1/2 cups (12 1/2 ounces/390 grams) all-purpose (plain) flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

In a bowl, using an electric mixer set on medium speed, beat together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about four minutes. Beat in the egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Cut the vanilla bean in half lengthwise and, using a small, sharp knife, scrape the seeds into the butter mixture. Mix well.

In a sifter, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Sift the flour mixture directly onto the butter mixture. Reduce the mixer speed to low and beat until well-mixed. Divide the dough into four equal portions. Shape each portion into a ball and then flatten the balls into disks. Wrap the disks in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. (The dough can be prepared up to three days ahead.) Let it soften slightly at room temperature before continuing.

Position a rack in the upper third of an oven and preheat to 350°F (180°C). Butter two large baking sheets. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out a dough disk 1/4 inch (6 millimeters) thick. Using cookie cutters, cut out desired shapes. Transfer the cutouts to the prepared baking sheets. Gather up and reroll the scraps and cut out more cookies. Then repeat with the remaining dough disks.

Bake until the cookies are golden on the edges, about eight minutes. Transfer the cookies to racks and let cool completely. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week. Makes four-five dozen cookies.

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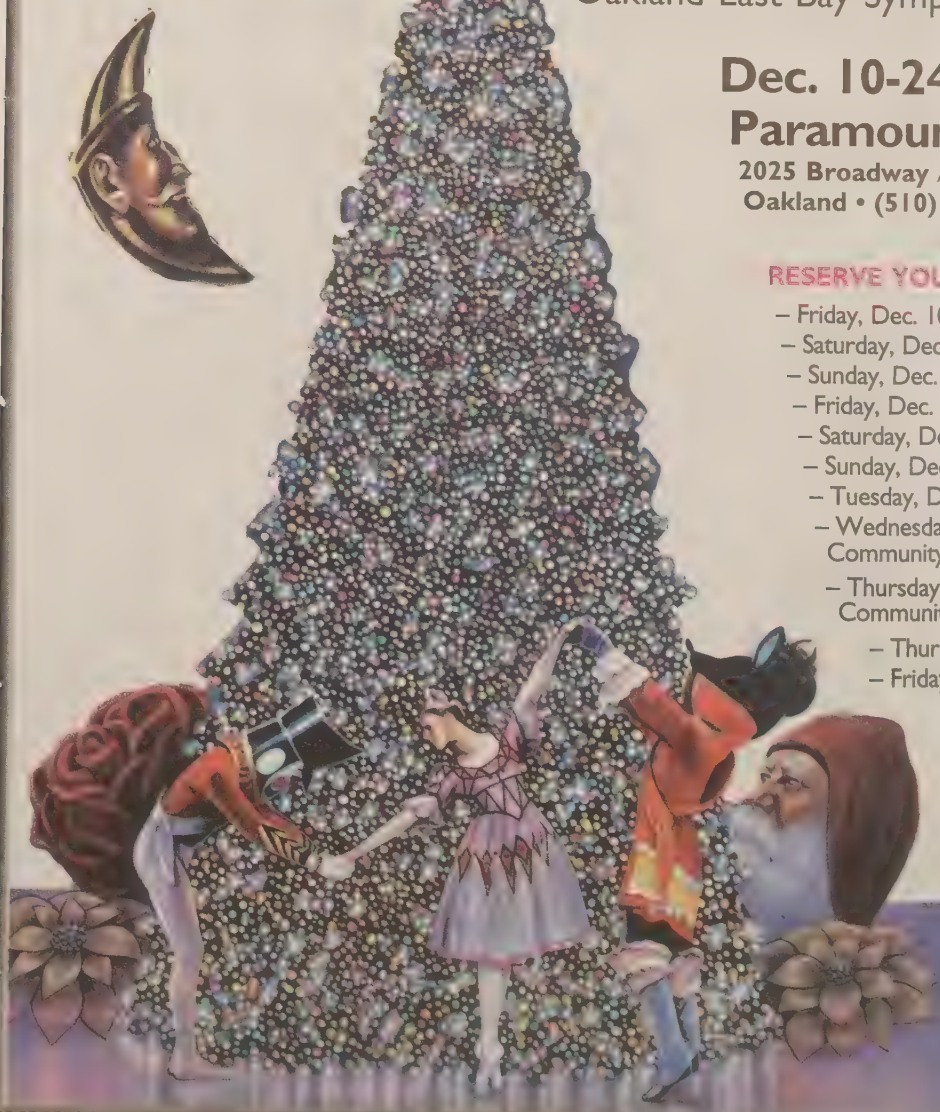
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Holiday Picture Pointers

Your holiday season may be closer to picture perfect if you heed these hints on taking great photos you'll enjoy throughout the new year to come:

- Keep your camera loaded and by your side. Most pictures are missed because the photographer had to load film or just wasn't ready. An extra set of batteries will also prove useful.

- Include family or friends when shooting the Christmas tree or dinner table. Pictures take on a new significance when they have subjects you can identify with and enjoy remembering.

- Avoid the "red-eye" phenomenon. Red-eye occurs when the bright light of the flash enters the subject's pupil, bounces off of the eye's retina and reflects back into the camera lens.

- Babies, people with light eyes, pets and "holiday revelers" (alcohol decreases the pupil's reaction to a flash) are most susceptible to red-eye.

- Increasing the available light will help contract the pupils of your subjects' eyes, which makes it harder for the flash's light to enter, or it may eliminate the need for a flash altogether.

- Another option is to use a faster-speed film, such as ISO 400 or higher. Many easy-to-use, technologically advanced cameras can help due to their patented red-eye reduction strobe pre-flash.

- Take advantage of the flash. Many cameras today offer fill-in flash to reduce or eliminate unwanted shadows or night-scene flash which auto-

matically signals the camera to select a slow shutter speed which will preserve background elements in a night-time photo. Night-scene flash is perfect for capturing the kids in front

of the Christmas tree or a dramatic city skyline.

- Enjoy advances in photography. Some cameras offer a wealth of

innovative features such as built-in zoom and auto-everything case that put otherwise-difficult shots into the range of even an amateur.

Cameras make great gifts for any shutterbug on your holiday shopping list-maybe even yourself.

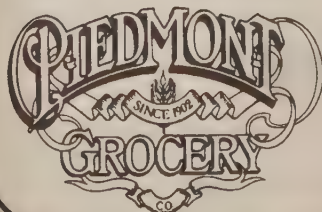


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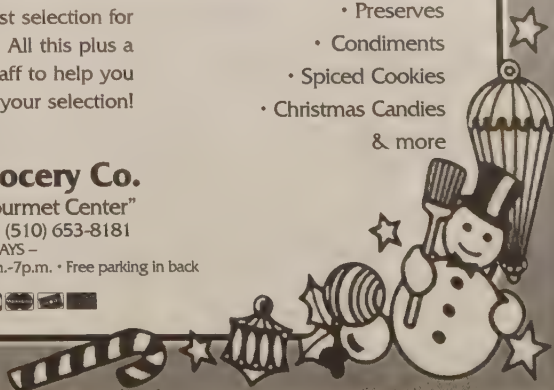
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Prepare now for Holiday travel

Failure to get your vehicle ready for winter's conditions can do more than just spoil your holiday travel.

In fact, a breakdown in winter could be deadly, warn the experts at the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), the non-profit organization that administers national certification tests to automotive technicians.

ASE offers the following tips to help motorists prepare.

The Basics

Read the owner's manual and become familiar with the various components and systems. Follow the recommended service schedules.

Housekeeping

Wash and wax your vehicle to protect its finish. Inspect lights and bulbs. Replace worn wiper blades; keep plenty of washer fluid on hand; carry emergency gear—a shovel, a blanket, boots, snack food, a car phone, etc.

Engine Oil

The oil and filter should be changed as specified in your manual.

Cooling System

The level, condition and concentration of the antifreeze should be checked periodically. The cooling system should be flushed and refilled as recommended. Let the engine cool off before working on the radiator. The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps and hoses should be checked by a professional.

Engine Performance

Problems with rough idling, hard starts, stalling or diminished power should be corrected before cold weather sets in. Describe any changes in performance to the service manager or a qualified technician.

Heater/Defroster

To ensure comfort and safety, the heater and defroster must be in good working condition.

Tires

Rotate tires about every 5,000 miles. The air pressure should be checked once a month; let the tires "cool down" first. Examine tires for cuts and nicks, uneven wearing, and cupping. Check the spare, too. Note that some of today's body styles and tire packages are not compatible with tire chains.

Brakes

Brakes should be inspected as recommended in your manual, or sooner if you notice pulsations, grabbing, noises or longer stopping distances.

Professional Technicians

If you are not a do-it-yourselfer, look for repair facilities that employ ASE-certified automotive technicians.

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Gift Certificate

Value \$10 (ten dollars)

VOID

May be used at any of the businesses listed on back. List changes every September 1. Call 510/527-5358 for updated list

Solano Avenue Shops offer Special Gift Certificates

Are you shopped out, Bubbala?

Have you found it next to impossible to find the perfect gift for someone? Well now there's hope in sight! A 'generic' Solano Avenue Gift Certificate might just solve your problem. Solano Avenue Gift Certificates may be used at more than 40 delightful businesses, getting you off the hook for knowing exactly what to buy your friend, client, teacher or loved ones. Available in \$10 denominations at Play It Again Toys, 1170 Solano Avenue; McManus' Cafe & Pub, 1309 Solano Avenue; Bears & Baubles, 1603 Solano Avenue; Half Price Books, 1849 Solano Avenue; Solano Jewelers, 1895 Solano Avenue.

Just think of the money you'll save. Solano Avenue Gift Certificates may be used just like cash. Slip a few in an envelope, seal it with a kiss and off you go. Contact the Solano Avenue Association at (510) 527-5358 for more information.

Santa's Village

Santa will take time out of his busy schedule to have his photo taken with the children and listen to their wish lists on Thursdays & Fridays, 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 5 p.m., from December 3 through 23 at his special **Santa's Village** at 1228 Solano Ave. in Albany. Sponsored by the Solano Avenue Association.

In **Santa's Village** there will also be a **Food Drive Barrel**, a **Toys for Tots Barrel** and a **Sock Tree** which becomes decorated with your donations of new socks. Please purchase a pair of socks, some canned food or an unwrapped toy for donation! After the holidays they will be donated to various charities.

Whimsical Trees by Solano Avenue merchants

The merchants have whimsically decorated the live Christmas trees in Santa's Village. Each is adorned with items representative of a particular business: Dogs By Dianne has yummies and dog toys on the tree; Powder Box has red and green curls; and, Investment House Realty has done up their tree with doll furniture. Bears & Baubles' tree has Teddy Bears. Come by and check them out!

Have Your Pet Photographed With Santa

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society will bring puppies and kittens for adoption to place in the window and are up for adoption. They will hold their **Paws for Santa** fund-raiser in **Santa's Village** on Sunday, December 19 when Santa will have his photo taken with your pet. Photo fees that day will go to the Berkeley Humane Society.

Holiday Street Performers on Solano Avenue

Saturday, Dec. 18

- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Play It Again Toys Santa's Elf
- 12 noon to 2 p.m. Half Price Books Reverend Rabbit
- 12 noon to 2 p.m. Strolling Torn Collins - A Dickensian Character
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Andronico's' Frog Logs Cajun Holiday Music
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Grace Baking Albany Jazz Chorus
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Strolling Sun Choir

Sunday, Dec. 19

- 12 noon to 2 p.m. Berkeley Bakery Albany Adult School Big Band & Chorus
- 12 noon to 2 p.m. No Sweat Berkeley Community Chamber Chorus
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Albany Art Gallery Albany Jazz Chorus
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Strolling Canyon Stiltwalkers
- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. By Hand Toy Soldier to Starbucks

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Dining & Entertainment



Fat Lady has Victorian holiday decorations throughout the restaurant

Victorian holiday decor at Fat Lady

For those of you who grew up with Thomas Nast's image of Santa and appreciate a Victorian Christmas, I recommend the Fat Lady, located in Jack London Square at 201 Washington Street. Once again, Pat and her creative staff have transformed the enchanting restaurant into wonderment.

Golden cherubs are tucked into snowy

clouds. Softly glowing mistletoe and your long Christmas past and future. If you are embracing the season, stop by the Fat Lady. (Don't miss the lunch daily, and dinner

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December 10, 11, 17, & 18 7PM

December 12, 18, & 19 2PM

December 12 6PM

TICKETS: \$12-\$15

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Nutcracker choreographer is renowned artist

Ron Guidi, who believes that teaching is as great an art as dancing, furthers a long line of eminent teachers. He studied ballet for ten years under the late Raoul Pausé, director of the Ballet Players Guild of Oakland Pausé, in turn, had studied with the famed Kirov dancer Adolph Bohm and an array of ballet and modern dance choreographers from the Diaghilev era. From 1958 to 1961, Mr. Guidi lived in Italy, Germany and Denmark, expanding his knowledge of classical dance.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Guidi taught for three years as associate supervisor of ballet at the University of California at Berkeley and was a principal dancer with Pausé's company. Mr. Guidi began choreographing ballets for Pausé and was named associate director of the company (renamed Oakland Civic Ballet) in 1961.

In 1965, Mr. Guidi founded Oakland Ballet Academy, and three years later opened the Oakland Ballet Academy which serves as the primary training ground for future Oakland Ballet dancers.

Mr. Guidi has choreographed over 20 ballets for the Oakland Ballet, among them *Carnival d'Aix*, *Dvorák Dancers*, *El Salón Mexico*, *Fantasia Para Un Gentilhombre*, *Gallops and Kisses*,

In Autumn, *Sibelius*, *Soirée Musicale*, *Trois Gymnopédies*, and

four full-length ballets: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Secret Garden*.

In 1986, Mr. Guidi was honored by the Marcus Foster Education Institute as a distinguished alumnus of the Oakland Public Schools. His many awards and honors include the first Bay Area Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Innovation in 1985. He has been a panelist for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council and has served as a adjudicator for the Pacific West Regional Ballet Association and the National Choreography Project.

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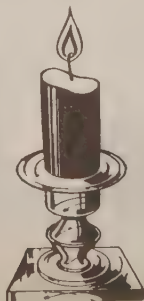
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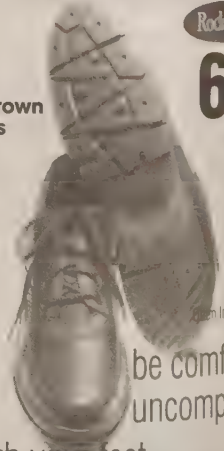
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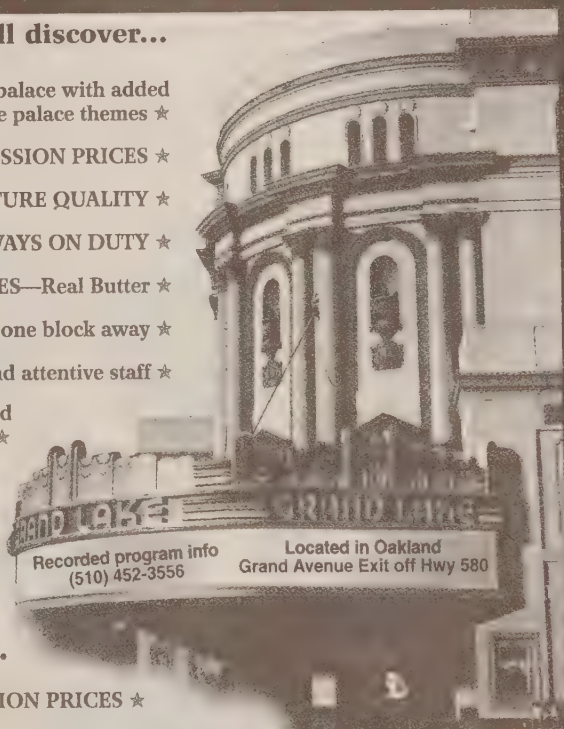
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at the Paramount Theater with the
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December 10-24

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THE AUTHENTIC ITALIAN MARKETPLACE

Buone Feste! Three wonderful Gifts for the Holiday Season

IL GIRO DEL PIEMONTE

A TOUR OF ITALY'S PIEMONTE REGION

...of an ongoing series of articles
...the culinary legacy of each of Italy's
...regions, we head northwest from Emilia-
...region, the gastronomic heartland of Italy,
...Piemonte, what some might describe as the
...gastronomic heartland of Italy.

GEOGRAPHY

...the word "pie" means "foot" and monte means
...means "an apt name for this landlocked
...at the foot of the Alps.

...a border with France on Italy's
...west edge, Piemonte is a land of high
...hills, soft hills, rich cities, gentle
...and picturesque vineyards.

GASTRONOMY

...Piemonte was part of the royal House of
...until the middle of the 19th century,
...the French occupation left a rich and
...mark on the region's cuisine -
...characterized by both the opulence of the
...and the simplicity of the peasant.

...its low, flat fields, Piemonte is one of the
...important rice-growing regions in Italy,
...especially clearly outshines pasta. Dairy
...products, including robiola and ricotta, are
...an important component of this cuisine.

...the world-famous delicate white truffles,
...and out by tramed dogs, are shaved over
...a variety of things. Meat and game dishes
...figure prominently and are often stewed
...in red wines.

...Piemonte is a hallmark of Piemonte cuisine;
...there may be as many as 20 antipasti served
...at a restaurant in the city. The area's most
...famous antipasto dish, bagna caoda, a "hot



Bread topped with bagna caoda and roasted peppers

...bath" of oil, anchovies, and garlic, combines
...both the Piemontese passion for garlic and
...their love of vegetables.

While most of Italy is not associated
...with sweets, Piemonte is a hotbed of small
...artisan candymakers, including Leone and
...Laboratorio Artigianale del Giandujotto
...of Torino and Davide Barbero of Asti. Many
...of these confectioners make use of the rich
...harvest of local Piemontese hazelnuts
... (see Pazzia per le Nocciole).

Puddings, cookies, and cakes also play a
...large role in Piemontese cuisine, with krumiri,
...panna cotta and zabaglione among this region's
...culinary claims to fame.

Most Piemonte wines are made with grapes
...found only in this region: Arneis, Dolcetto,
...Freisa, Grignolino, and Nebbiolo. The region's
...most famous wines are the rich and complex
...Barolo, the dramatic Barbaresco, the rustic
...Barbera, and the dry, fruity Dolcetto - all
...wines that stand up to the region's gutsy,
...flavorful foods. Most are produced on family
...estates with small plots of land.

Next issue: Lazio

LETTERA IN VIAGGIO

Letter from Paul

Not to rub it in, but I've had my holiday
...shopping done for a long time. I spent
...around Italy at the end of summer trying
...to get all of our orders in so that San
...Niccolo could deliver them on time.

I know that no one feels sorry for me, but
...it's exasperating to experience holiday
...stress while others enjoy the dolce far
...niente (the sweetness of doing nothing) of
...an Italian August. I found some wonderful
...products though, all of which will arrive just
...in time for the holidays.

Many of the sweets I've brought in for the
...holidays come from small producers in
...Piemonte and feature that region's unique
...and delicious hazelnuts (see article below).
...By the way, if you're looking for an antidote
...to millennium madness, I heartily recom-
...mend hiding out in Piemonte. The rolling
...vineyards of the Langhe, home of Barolo,
...Barbaresco, and the idyllic town of Alba, will
...be brisk and bare, and your appetite will be



splendidly sated at countless wonderful local
...restaurants.

Cesare Giaccone of world-famous Da Cesare
...restaurant has invited me to join him and his
...dogs, Vasco and Rambo, for a truffle hunt over
...New Year's. A tempting offer, but I'll be here
...wrapping gift baskets.

Buone Feste, Buon Millennio, and Molte
...Grazie for 80 great years with us!

Paul Ferrari
- Paul Ferrari

PAZZIA PER LE NOCCIOLE!

WILD ABOUT HAZELNUTS



Piemonte's Tonda Gentile delle Langhe hazelnuts
...are well known within Italy for their smoky
...and intense flavor. Harvested in August and
...September, these flavorful nuts find their
...way into everything from torrone, to giandua,
...to stuffing.

While hazelnuts may be eaten fresh (when
...they're still green), those used for baking
...must be fully mature before they can be
...harvested. Unlike other nuts, hazelnuts are
...allowed to fall to the ground, where the best
...are immediately plucked from the earth.

Fresh-picked hazelnuts are allowed to dry
...naturally or with the assistance of tempera-
...ture-controlled ovens. Dried nuts may then be
...roasted in their shells and shipped to large
...manufacturers to be ground into paste for
...giandua or gelato or they may shipped raw
...to small producers to be roasted on site for
...candies, cookies or cakes.



Roasting hazelnuts at Bonfante e Ortaldo in Piemonte

Alas, Piemontese hazelnuts are harvested
...but once a year and are highly perishable,
...which is why we order our hazelnut products
...only for the holidays.

*Here are a few of our favorite hazelnut
...confections from Piemonte:*

Laboratorio Artigianale del Giandujotto Giandujotti Tourinot Candies

This "Artisan's Laboratory" of chocolate pro-
...duces some of the best classic giandua
...chocolate we've ever had.

House-roasted cocoa beans are mixed
...with top-quality, finely ground Piemontese
...hazelnuts to produce a gold, foil-wrapped
...morsel that melts in your mouth.

In addition to the bulk candies we sell year
...round, we've brought in gift boxes especially
...for the holidays. \$11.95/lb to \$19.95/box

Giovanni Cogno Nocciolle & Cioccolato Cookies

Giovanni Cogno learned how to make these
...delectable hazelnut and hazelnut-chocolate
...biscotti from his dad.

Following the family tradition, he continues to
...make these all-natural cookies at his family's
...small bakery, Pasticceria di Giovanni Cogno,
...in downtown La Morra, one of Barolo's great
...hill towns. \$8.95/bag to \$12.95/box

Bonfante e Ortaldo Nocciolini

The small pastry shop of Bonfante e Ortaldo,
...in Chivasso (near Torino), puts hazelnuts to
...deliciously distinctive use in Nocciolini. These
...tiny biscotti nuggets not only contain
...hazelnuts, they're shaped to look like them
...too! Try them sprinkled over ice cream.
...\$7.45/bag

Davide Barbero Torrone D'Asti

Torrone is wildly popular all over Italy.
...Davide Barbero uses fresh-crop hazelnuts to
...make his crunchy, Piemontese-style torrone.
...We carry three sizes of his torrone, as well
...as a special chocolate-and-rum treat just for
...the holidays (see next page). \$6.95 to
...\$12.95/bar

Laboratorio Pasticceria Giraudi La Giacometta Hazelnut Cream

Giacomo Boidi, master chocolatier, is
...responsible for this dreamy chocolate-
...hazelnut cream that's like Nutella that died
...and went to heaven. The angels will sing
...when you try it, according to a recent Bon
...Appetit article. Addictive right off the spoon or
...spread on biscotti or ice cream. \$9.95/jar

A Taste of Piemonte:

DA CESARE Special-Blend Wine Vinegars - \$12.95 to \$29.95/bottle

DANIELE DEVALLE Assorted Honey - \$8.95/17 oz jar

KRUMIRI ROSSI Butter Cookies - \$14.75 to \$29.75/tin

LEONE PASTIGLIE Assorted Candies - \$11.00/lb

PARUSSO Barolo - \$28.95/750 ml bottle

RISERIA DI LENTA Arborio and Carnaroli Rice - \$4.95 to \$6.25/bag

OUR MISSION

In Italy, the enjoyment of good food and wine is
...part of everyday life. Our mission at

A.G. Ferrari Foods for 80 years now has been
...to share our passion for food and wine in the
...tradition of my grandfather, Ambrogio
...Giovanni Ferrari, by creating stores that are
...a reflection of the Italian lifestyle.

We are dedicated to supporting the "artigiani,"
...small, artisan producers who are passionate
...about what they do. Most of these producers have
...generations of commitment to making the best,
...most authentic products possible. We are likewise
...fanatical about quality and authenticity in the
...creation of our housemade products.

Our inspiration and motivation come from the
...same motto that guided my grandfather's own
...life and work:

"LA QUALITA NON HA TEMPO."
QUALITY IS TIMELESS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Page One
 - A Tour of Piemonte
 - Letter from Paul
 - Wild About Hazelnuts
- Page Two
 - Savory Gift Baskets
 - Sweet Gift Baskets
- Page Three
 - Holiday Products
 - Seasonal Catering Menu
 - Sampler Gift Baskets
- Page Four
 - Holiday Cakes & Cookies
 - Millennium Champagnes
 - Store Locations

Holiday Gift Baskets from

The Italians may not have originated the practice of gift giving, but they did invent gift baskets. It's the only thing they had available to give, food, in a sturdy basket and delivered it to their loved ones. Since then, but delivering a basket of food to someone you care about is still a humble way to say "I love you."

SAVORIES

These ready-to-make-meals in a basket are perfect for the pragmatist on your gift list. Each basket comes with enough ingredients to make an authentic Italian dish, so your favorite foodie can start cooking right away.



1. Pasta Pronta \$19.95

A few basics are all it takes to make an easy and delicious Italian meal.

A.G.F. Pasta	500 g bag	Region: Toscana
A.G.F. Salsa al Basilico Pasta Sauce	340 g jar	Region: Toscana
Il Rosso di Annibale House Red Wine	750 ml bottle	Region: Toscana

2. Pasta Rustica \$24.95

Relive the smells and flavors of an Italian trattoria.

A.G.F. Extra Virgin Olive Oil	750 ml bottle	Region: Italy
A.G.F. Salsa al Basilico Pasta Sauce	340 g jar	Region: Toscana
La Favorita d'Abruzzo Farfalle Pasta	500 g bag	Region: Abruzzi

Also includes a bulb of fresh garlic and a stainless steel Italian cheese grater.

3. Insalata Mista \$29.95

Great salad is just a toss away.

A.G.F. Extra Virgin Olive Oil	750 ml bottle	Region: Italy
Castello Estense Balsamic Vinegar	500 ml bottle	Region: Modena

Also includes a bag of our delicious housemade croutons.

4. Risotto Pronto \$55.95

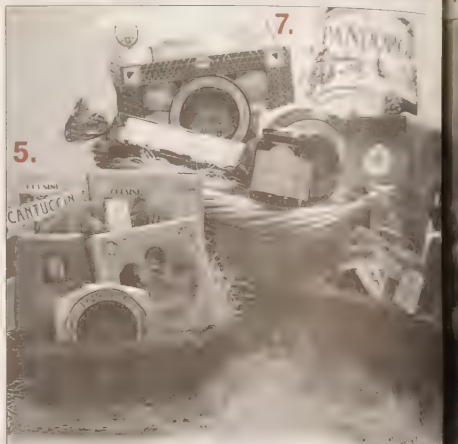
Raise your glasses high to a classic risotto dinner for six.

A.G.F. Extra Virgin Olive Oil	750 ml bottle	Region: Italy
A.G.F. Dried Porcini Mushrooms	2 oz bag	Region: Lombardia
Cucina Aromatica Saffron Filaments	.25 g box	Region: Lombardia
Il Bianco di Annibale House White Wine	750 ml bottle	Region: Toscana
Riseria Ferron Vialone Nano Rice	1,000 g bag	Region: Veneto
Grana Padano Grating Cheese	1 lb wedge	Region: Emilia-Romagna

Also includes a stainless steel Italian cheese grater and chef Gianluca Guglielmi's recipe for Risotto alla Milanese.

SWEETS

Need a gift for a sweet tooth? Know a foodie who deserves a basket that will satisfy both the parents and the kids? Our baskets are just the thing. No assembly required: Just unpack and eat!



5. Piccoli Dolci \$45.95

Let the nibbling begin with this mouthwatering selection.

Corsini Cantuccini Cookies		
Corsini Amaretti Morbidi Cookies		
Fior da Fiore Panettone Classico	100 g box	Reg.
Innocenzo Borillo Chocolate Torrone		
Antica Drogheria Manganelli Panforte		
Leone Regal Tonno Assorted Candies		

6. Gran Dolci \$85.95

Help your favorite foodie finish his or her meal with a sweet treat.

Antica Drogheria Manganelli Biscotti	200 g box	Reg.
Antica Drogheria Manganelli Panforte		
Jada Selezione Bionda al Prosecco		
La Nicchia Lemon Marmalade		
La Giacometta Chocolate-Hazelnut Creme		
Essensia Orange Muscat	375 g jar	Reg.
Giamaica Caffè Giovanni Erbst 1947	500 g bag	Reg.

7. Magnifici Dolci \$124.95

Wow even the most fanatical sweet tooth with this luxurious collection.

L'Antica Drogheria Wild Rose Jam		
Antica Drogheria Manganelli Panforte	450 g wedge	Reg.
Antica Drogheria Manganelli Ricciarelli	250 g box	Reg.
Daive Barbero Rum & Chocolate Torrone	9 oz bar	Reg.
Bonfante Hazelnut Cookies	5 oz bag	Reg.
Massimo di Crino Panettone	1,000 g loaf	Reg.
Perbellini Pandoro	1,000 g loaf	Reg.
Marlunghe Fior d'Arancio	750 ml bottle	Reg.
Sparkling Wine		



12. Essenziale in Cucina \$199.95

An Italian chef's pantry should always have the essentials.

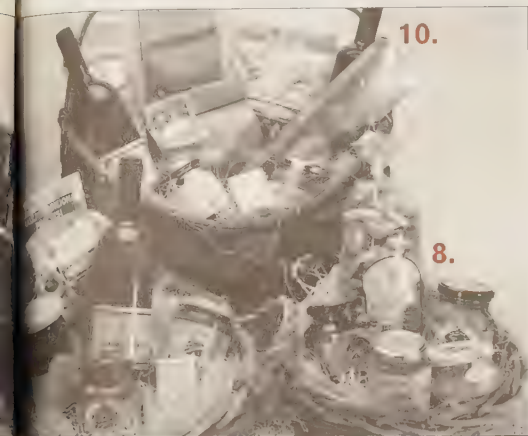
Molinari Salame		
La Nicchia Capers in Salt	150 g jar	
Rizzoli Anchovies in Salt	350 g tin	
Bella Cucina Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto	6.5 oz jar	
Giusti 10-Year Balsamic Vinegar	250 ml bottle	
Daniele Devalle Dandelion Honey	500 g jar	
Le Corti Extra Virgin Olive Oil	750 ml bottle	
Giamaica Caffè Indian Mysore Coffee	500 g bag	
Giovanni Bechelli Farro	500 g bag	
Il Rosso di Annibale House Red Wine	750 ml bottle	
Conrada Monsignore Orecchiette Pasta	500 g bag	
Tenuta di Valgiano Extra Virgin Olive Oil	500 ml bottle	
Giovanni Corno Hazelnut Cookies	300 g box	
Jada Selezione Proseccini Crackers	200 g bag	

Ferrari Foods!

poor "contadini" (farm workers) wrapped
unfortunately, the nature of gift giving has changed
our passions and your generosity.

SAMPLERS

Favorite food lover on a culinary odyssey. Our sampler baskets
varied selection of products from all over Italy, including many
impossible to find outside of Italy.



10.

8.

Selezione della Casa \$45.95

Item No. 3026

selection of sweet and savory antipasto items.

Prosciutto	150 g bag	Region: Lazio
Amalfi Lemon Honey	500 g jar	Region: Sicilia
Amalfi Mixed Antipasti	10 oz jar	Region: Lombardia
Amalfi Sun-dried Tomatoes	10 oz jar	Region: Emilia-Romagna
Amalfi Paste	60 g tube	Made in Georgia
Amalfi Lemon Pesto	6.5 oz	

Antipasti d'Italia \$49.95

Item No. 3022

Antipasti d'Italia!

Antipasti	wrapped piece	Made in California
Amalfi Roasted Peppers	12 oz jar	Made in California
Amalfi Wild Mushrooms	10 oz jar	Region: Lombardia
Amalfi Olives	500 g	Region: Liguria
Amalfi Tiramisu Crackers	350 g bag	Region: Puglia
Amalfi House White Wine	750 ml bottle	Region: Toscana

Viaggio in Italia \$99.95

Item No. 3023

Viaggio in Italia is almost as good as being there.

Amalfi Spaghetti	500 g box	Region: Marche
Amalfi e House Red Wine	750 ml bottle	Region: Toscana
Amalfi Arborio Rice	1,000 g bag	Region: Piemonte
Amalfi Tiramisu Crackers	350 g bag	Region: Puglia
Amalfi Tiramisu Coffee	250 g bag	Region: Veneto
Amalfi Raspberry Jam	314 g jar	Region: Toscana
Amalfi 3-Year Balsamic Vinegar	500 ml bottle	Region: Emilia-Romagna
Amalfi Orange Blossom Honey	500 g jar	Region: Sicilia
Amalfi Assorted Candies	250 g box	Region: Piemonte
	35 g box	Region: Piemonte

Primo della Classe \$299.00

Item No. 3028

Impress even the most devoted Italophile with this superlative collection of

Amalfi Polenta Flour	2,000 g bag	Region: Piemonte
Amalfi Balsamic Vinegar	500 ml bottle	Region: Piemonte
Amalfi Extra Virgin Olive Oil	750 ml bottle	Region: Emilia-Romagna
Amalfi 10-Year-Old Balsamic Vinegar	100 ml bottle	Region: Emilia-Romagna
Amalfi Corzetti Pasta Stamp	2 pieces	Region: Liguria
Amalfi Chestnuts in Syrup	380 g jar	Region: Toscana
Amalfi Colossal Olives	580 g jar	Region: Puglia
Amalfi Orange Pesto	0.20 g jar	Region: Sicilia
Amalfi Assorted Fats	1.8 oz bottle	Region: Umbria

SPECIAL CATERING OFFER: (800) 335-5090

Mention this newsletter when placing your next catering order of \$50.00 or more
with The American Express Card* and receive a delicious bottle of
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*The \$50 value is redeemable at any one of our eleven locations, while supplies last - offer expires 12/31/99

A.G. FERRARI FOODS now welcomes The American Express Card.*

Unique Holiday Gift Ideas

LA DOLCE VITA

The Sweet Life

Come Christmas, a hush comes over the streets of Italy. Everyone has gone home to
spend the holiday with their families. In the warmth of the firelight, families gather
round their dinner tables exchanging stories and eating foods steeped in ritual and
tradition. Italy certainly does not lack for good food during the rest of the year, but the
Italians pull out all the stops for the holidays, especially when it comes to sweets.

Sweets are one of the few foods that Italians buy rather than make
themselves. We've chosen only a few to highlight here. You'll find many more at our
neighborhood stores and on our website.

You may notice that many of the Italian breads and sweets listed here
feature nuts, which are symbols of fertility and abundance, and honey, an entreaty for
sweetness in the coming year.

TORRONE

Created centuries ago in Cremona,
torrone is an Italian candy bar made of
egg whites, honey, and toasted almonds

As the popularity of this sweet treat swept
through Italy, each region developed its
own torrone-making style. Abuzzans like
it soft. Sicilians prefer it with sesame
seeds or candied fruit. In Naples, it's even
incorporated into a layer cake

We like torrone in whatever form it comes,
but here are a few of our favorites:

Davide Barbero Torrone al Rhum & Cioccolato

Chocolate-Covered Torrone with Rum

There's only one word for this hazelnut-
studded torrone cloaked in smooth, dark
chocolate and bursting with sweet rum
stuffing: Divine. Wrapped in red and gold
foil, it's the perfect stocking stuffer or
thank-you gift. \$9.95/270g bar

Innocenzo Borillo Torrone Baci

Chocolate-Covered Torrone "Kisses"

These bite-sized bits of heaven have been
made in the tiny village of San Marco dei
Cavoti in Campania since 1891. Following
in his grandmother's footsteps, Innocenzo
Borillo mixes both hazelnuts and almonds
into his torrone, then dips these miniature
bars into a vat of dark, rich chocolate.



Each bar is wrapped in decorative wax
paper and packed in an angelic white
and gold box. \$10.95/380g box or
\$19.95/800g box

Torrone Nurzia

Torrone from the Nurzia Brothers

From the mountain town of L'Aquila in the
Abruzzi comes the Nurzia brothers' deli-
cious torrone. Their version of this holiday
favorite is soft and velvety smooth. There
are two kinds to choose from: one made
with almonds and the other made with
cocoa and hazelnuts. Both are individually
wrapped in a colorful, Deco-style box
\$3.95 to \$22.95/box

Pasticceria Steckli Torroni

Torrone with almonds

This beautifully packaged hard torrone
comes from Borgotaro in Emilia-Romagna
(A.G. Ferrari's birthplace). The distinctive
flavor of the valley's honey makes this
torrone a special treat. \$11.95/300g bar

Let A. G. Ferrari Foods cater your holiday event

A.G. FERRARI CHEF GIANLUCA GUGLIELMI HAS CREATED
SEVERAL SPECIAL FESTIVE MENUS FOR OUR CATERING DEPARTMENT
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. WE'VE INCLUDED ONE TO WHET YOUR APPETITE.

Holiday Party Buffet 1999

CLASSIC ANTIPASTI PLATTER

- Bresaola (air-cured beef)
- Salame Toscano (Tuscan-style beef and pork salame)
- Grilled red peppers
- Braised white beans with pecorino cheese
- Giant green Cernigola olives
- Grilled marinated red onions
- Balsamic marinated zucchini
- Grissini (housemade breadsticks)

AUTHENTIC ITALIAN BUFFET ITEMS

- Polenta e Funghi - grilled polenta triangles with mushrooms, garlic and Assago cheese.
- Verdure Arrostiti - roasted zucchini, red potatoes, bell peppers, onion and carrots.
- Polpette al Sugo - southern Italian beef and sausage meatballs in a spicy tomato sauce.
- Arancini di Riso - tomato and basil infused risotto balls, breaded and lightly fried.
- Insalata - mixed baby greens, tomatoes, and housemade croutons with balsamic vinaigrette.
- Pane - housemade ciabatta.

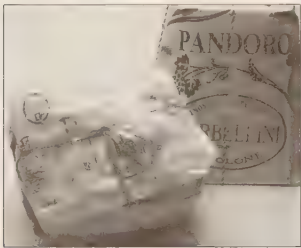


CALL OUR CATERING DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE A COMPLETE LIST OF
HOLIDAY MENUS OR ASSISTANCE IN CREATING YOUR OWN CUSTOM MENU.

CALL: 800-335-5090

HOLIDAY BREADS AND BISCOTTI

Nowhere is Italy's culinary genius more evident than in its seasonal baked goods. How these artisan bakers can export their creations thousands of miles across an ocean and have them taste as fresh as the day they were made is as great as mystery to us as the blood of Saint Gennaro is to the Neapolitani. From panforte, to panettone, these sweet treats are as unique as they are delicious.



Massimo di Crino Panettone

Every Italian village has its own special Christmas bread. The most famous panettone, is often given to one's family and friends on the night of the Nativity.

We think Antonio di Crino's panettone is the best in Italy. Made in small batches with top-quality raisins, candied orange peel, butter, and minimal sugar, this tastefully wrapped panettone is moist and fruity. Delicious with a glass of sweet dessert wine. \$23.95/2,000g loaf.

Fior da Fiore Panettone

Fior da Fiore is one of the few large panettone producers to use high-quality fruit and real butter. Chockfull of

Sultana raisins and lightly scented with vanilla, this classic panettone makes a delicious breakfast or dessert any time of the year. This year we'll also sell Fior da Fiore's giandua - filled panettone as well as their pandoro. \$2.25 to \$11.95/loaf.

Antica Drogheria Manganelli Panforte & Ricciarelli alla Mandorla

During the Middle Ages, the "ancient drugstore" of Antica Drogheria Manganelli sold medicinal herbs and spices. It continues to make Siena's finest panforte (kind of a medieval power bar) using a centuries-old secret recipe. Manganelli's rich and spicy panforte makes a wonderful gift accompanied by a bottle of Vin Santo or bag of Giamaica coffee.

New to us from Manganelli this year are Ricciarelli alla Mandorla, delicate almond cookies enjoyed by Siennese nobility since the 15th century. Panforte \$4.95 to \$14.95/wheel Ricciarelli \$13.95/250g box.

Perbellini Offella d'Oro & Pandoro

Pandoro, or "golden bread," is a simple, melt-in-your-mouth sponge cake from Verona. Perbellini is Italy's best delicate, yet rich and flavorful at the same time.

But this Veronese baker's masterpiece is his Offella d'Oro, a richer, moister pandoro with an almond crunch topping. Both are wrapped in old-fashioned paper with a charming grapevine handle. You'll make a great impression with either one. Pandoro: \$23.95/each Offella d'Oro: \$29.50/each.



Ferrari Brut Spumante

Not our family (unfortunately!), but the Lunelli family makes this most prestigious of Italy's sparkling wines. It is made in the Alpine valleys of the Trentino, employing the classic French varietals of pinot noir and chardonnay and methode champenoise (fermentation in the bottle). Italy's leading wine magazine *Gambero Rosso* has placed Ferrari for "a genera. excellence which is almost unrivalled."

This dry sparkler equals its best French and California counterparts for creaminess of texture and fineness of bubbles. This year we'll have the Brut available in a beautiful Gibson Girl gift tin for \$23.95 or in an elegant 2-bottle designer tin for \$46.95. Also available individually for \$19.95/bottle.

Alitalia

Save up to \$150 on a fabulous ski package in the Italian Alps!

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To book your ski package, or for more information on this and other exciting vacation packages to Italy, call Italtour today at 800-845-3365 and refer to code #60.

Or visit us at www.italiatour.com

Break The B...
A SPARKLING NEW YEAR
IS GOING TO BE VIRTUALLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID THE
NOT THAT WE MIND! WE
COURSE, WOULD LOVE TO
CELEBRATE ITALIAN-STYLE

Ruggeri Prosecco di Valdobbiadene

Ruggeri Prosecco di Valdobbiadene is a sparkling wine from the Veneto region of Italy. It is made from 100% Glera grapes and is known for its fine bubbles and delicate flavor. The wine is typically served chilled and is a popular choice for celebrations and special occasions.

We have many holiday items and great gifts (We just ran out of room)



Please ask A.G. Ferrari staff member to visit our website or call us at 877-87-TASTE (877-878-2783)

Shop A. G. FERRARI FOODS on the web

www.agferrari.com

Now you can ship A. G. Ferrari products anywhere in the U.S. Share your passion for Italian food by introducing your favorite A.G. Ferrari foods to a friend: Shopagferrari.com - The Web's Premier Italian Market. Our online store has unique Italian food products to satisfy discriminating tastes on your shopping list. From wine, to olive oil, we'll ship our fine Italian imports anywhere in the country.

Also on our site:

- A full selection of gift baskets
- Gift certificates
- Monthly pantry club
- Seasonal products
- Recipes from the A. G. Ferrari kitchen

STORE LOCATION

Berkeley - Elmwood
2905 College Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-849-2701

Berkeley - Solano Avenue
1843 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707
510-559-8860

Lafayette - La Fiesta Square
23 Lafayette Circle
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-299-8040

Marin - Corte Madera
1070 Corte Madera Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94928
415-945-1447

Oakland - Montclair Village
6119 La Salle Avenue
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39⁹⁹

• EKG-ACCURATE
MONITORING
• WIRELESS FROM
CHEST TO WRIST

Bolinger

'MULTI GYM'

One Unit for
Chin-ups, Push-ups,
& Leg Lifts—Great for
Building Upper
Body Muscle

reg. 29.99

24⁹⁹

**LEGACY
FITNESS**

'S.E.S.'
FOLDING
WEIGHT BENCH

reg. 139.99

119⁹⁹

• LAT PULLDOWN,
DIP STATION & LEG
EXTENSION

• INCLINE BAR

• ADJUSTABLE CRUTCHES

• BUTTERFLY &
SAFETY BAR LOCKS

AB BOARD

reg. 59.99

49⁹⁹

• FULLY ADJUSTABLE & FOLDABLE

• PUSH-UPS

• WITH HANDLES

• FOLDABLE

Bolinger

HEAVY DUTY
EXERCISE MAT

reg. 34.99

29⁹⁹

bico

VINYL
DUMBBELLS

#1	reg. 3.29	2.99
#2	reg. 4.99	3.99
#3	reg. 6.99	5.99
#4	reg. 7.99	6.99
#5	reg. 9.99	8.99

FlexaBall

'FLEXABALL'
EXERCISE BALL

reg. 34.99

29⁹⁹

• TONES, FIRMS & TIGHTENS

• OVER 50 EXERCISES

Thi-Fit

NEOPRENE
KNEE
SUPPORT

reg. 10.99

8⁹⁹

RACKET SPORTS

Wilson

'GRAPHITE TOUR
TITANIUM
STRETCH'
TENNIS RACKET

• HIGH MODULUS
GRAPHITE WITH
BLEND OF TITANITE
TITANIUM POWDER

reg. 119.99

49⁹⁹

HEAD

'AGASSI
EXTREME XL'
TENNIS RACKET

• EXTRA LONG FOR MORE
REACH & POWER

• GRAPHITE FUSION
TECHNOLOGY FOR
A SOLID FEEL

reg. 69.99

39⁹⁹

'TITANIUM
5000
STRETCH'
TENNIS RACKET

• LATEST TITANIUM
ALLOY FUSION

reg. 59.99

39⁹⁹

HEAD

'TRYSL
PRO XL'
TENNIS RACKET

• PATENTED HIGH
MODULUS GRAPHITE 'AC22'
DESIGN FOR GREATER POWER

reg. 49.99

29⁹⁹

HEAD

'CATAPULT'
180XL'
RACQUETBALL RACKET

• HIGH MODULUS
GRAPHITE

reg. 179.95

59⁹⁹

• SET INCLUDES
RACKET,
RACQUETBALLS &
EYEGUARDS

EKTEON

'ASCENT'
RACQUETBALL SET

reg. 34.99

29⁹⁹

DUNLOP

'POWER
COMP'
TENNIS RACKET

• OVERSIZED
DIVIDED

reg. 39.99

29⁹⁹

GOLF

**SOUTH BAY
GOLF**

'CARRY LITE'
GOLF BAG

• ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT
DESIGN

• MULTIPLE
STORAGE
POCKETS

• GRAPHITE
SHAFT FRIENDLY
DIVIDERS

• PADDED
CARRY STRAP

reg. 49.99

39⁹⁹

DUNLOP

'T.D. PLUS'
PUTTERS

reg. 18.99

15⁹⁹

SPALDING

'HEAT'
OVERSIZED GOLF SET

1, 3 & 5 ALLOY WOODS &
3-9 INVESTMENT
CAST IRONS PLUS
PITCHING
WEDGE

reg. 359.99

179⁹⁹

YOUR
CHOICE

Wilson

'1200'
OVERSIZED
GOLF SET

1, 3 & 5 WOODS
3-9 IRONS, PLUS
A PITCHING
WEDGE

reg. 289.99

289⁹⁹

• SETS UP
IN MINUTES

• 10' x 8'

**CLUB
CHAMP**

PORTABLE QUICK NET

reg. 54.99

49⁹⁹

JEP

ELECTRIC
RETURN
PUTTING
CUP

reg. 15.99

12⁹⁹

• HIGH-QUALITY
TRAVEL COVER

WILSON

TRAVEL
COVER

reg. 49.99

49⁹⁹

Wilson

CAN OF 3
TENNIS
BALLS

Big 5
Sale Price

2²⁹

penn

CANISTER
OF 2
RACQUET-
BALLS

Big 5
Low Price

3⁴⁹

prince

WITH LARGER SIDE POCKET
'APPROACH'
LOCKER BAG

reg. 29.99

12⁹⁹

prince

'CHANG JR.
RAD 6'
TENNIS RACKET

reg. 19.99

16⁹⁹

Reebok

MEN'S 'TRUMBULL'
SPIKELESS
GOLF SHOES

Big 5
Low Price

59⁹⁹

DUNLOP

'DOUBLE TITANIUM'

reg. 19.99

16⁹⁹

Pinnacle

'GOLD'

reg. 16.99

14⁹⁹

Ideal Gifts...At Perfect Prices!

FAMILY GAMES

Y Frame With Dual Suspension!

'PRIMUS' 21 SPEED MOUNTAIN BIKE

reg. 229.99

149⁹⁹

SAVE \$80

- 26 INCH
- 21 SPEED
- 2 BRAKES
- GRIP SHIFTER



GIVE ACTION PACKED FAMILY FUN THIS HOLIDAY!

Halex

5 FOOT ELECTRONIC AIR HOCKEY TABLE

reg. 169.99

- AUTOMATIC SCORING
- AUTOMATIC PUCK RETURN
- ROUNDED INSIDE CORNERS

GAME WINNER ELECTRONIC TABLE SOCCER

reg. 169.99

- TABLE-MOUNTED ELECTRONIC SCORING
- 55" X 29" X 34"
- PREASSEMBLED PLAYER RODS

SAVE \$70 **99⁹⁹** YOUR CHOICE

HARVARD SPORTS

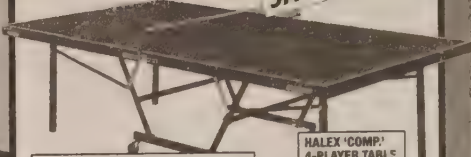
'COMPETITION' TABLE TENNIS TABLE

reg. 279.99

249⁹⁹

SAVE \$30

- INTEGRATED NET & POST SYSTEM
- WELDED 'A'-LEG DESIGN
- PROTECTIVE CORNER PADS



HARVARD 'OUTDOOR SUPREME' TABLE TENNIS TABLE

reg. 449.99

399⁹⁹

HALEX 'COMP' 4-PLAYER TABLE TENNIS SET

reg. 34.99

24.99

Franklin

YOUTH'S HELMET & BALL SET

reg. 24.99

19⁹⁹

- YOUTH SIZE FOOTBALL HELMET WITH CHIN STRAP
- MINI RUBBER FOOTBALL

YOUR CHOICE



teams may vary by store

YOMEGA

'BRAIN' YO-YO

reg. 11.99

9⁹⁹

Beginners Can Do All the Classic Tricks!

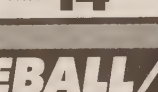


REACTION GOLF

VIRTUAL GOLF GAME

reg. 19.99

14⁹⁹



Forster

'CHAMPION' VOLLEYBALL SET

reg. 59.99

29⁹⁹

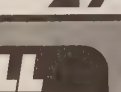


Acudart

'UNION JACK' DARTBOARD

reg. 49.99

29⁹⁹



'BARCELONA' JR. SOCCER CLEATS

reg. 24.99

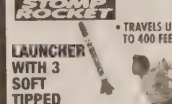
19⁹⁹



'STEVE YOUNG' FOOTBALL

reg. 24.99

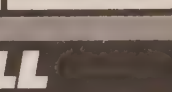
14⁹⁹



'NK 150' SOCCER BALL

reg. 14.99

12⁹⁹



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

- ALL LEATHER PALM
- RAW LITE BACK



Rawlings

KEN GRIFFEY JR. 12 1/2" BASEBALL GLOVE

reg. 36.99

32⁹⁹

YOUR CHOICE

Wilson

13" SOFTBALL GLOVE

reg. 39.99

32⁹⁹

YOUR CHOICE

- CLOSED WEB-GRIP-TITE POCKET
- PRO BACK STYLING



ATEC

'HITTING STREAK' PITCHING MACHINE

THROWS FASTBALLS, CURVES OR SLIDERS

Selected Stores Only



\$25 MFG. REBATE

SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS

reg. 379.99

324⁹⁹

After Rebate

Rawlings

'POWER PITCH 'N' HIT' RADIO CONTROL PITCHING MACHINE

reg. 39.99

29⁹⁹

* RADIO CONTROLLED BUTTON ON BAT



'MCS KEYSTONE' MEN'S LO BASEBALL CLEATS

after sale 36.99

29⁹⁹

* DURABLE SYNTHETIC LEATHER UPPER



* 'MCS KEYSTONE' YOUTH LO BASEBALL CLEATS after sale 29.99... **25⁹⁹**



BASKETBALL

HARVARD SPORTS

'MINI-COURT II' YOUTH'S BASKETBALL BACKBOARD & STAND

- STURDY 3-PRONG METAL POLE & BASE
- HEIGHT EASILY ADJUSTS FROM 2 FT. TO 6 FT.

reg. 39.99

24⁹⁹

SAVE \$15



SPALDING

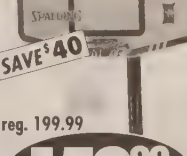
'QUICK ADJUST' PORTABLE BASKETBALL SYSTEM

- DURABLE 44" GRAPHITE BACKBOARD
- PORTABLE BASE FILLS WITH SAND OR WATER
- BUILT-IN WHEELS FOR EASY MOBILITY

reg. 199.99

159⁹⁹

SAVE \$40



LIFETIME BASKETBALL

'STREET COURT' PORTABLE BASKETBALL SYSTEM

- CLEAR ACRYLIC BACKBOARD
- BUILT-IN WHEELS FOR MOBILITY
- HEIGHT ADJUSTS EASILY FROM 7 TO 10 FT. BASE FILLS WITH SAND OR WATER

reg. 249.99

199⁹⁹

SAVE \$50



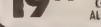
Rawlings

'ALL COURT' BASKETBALL

reg. 39.99

19⁹⁹

* HIGH-TECH COMPOSITE COVER FOR ALL SURFACES



#62-160

'ZUO' SYNTHETIC LEATHER BASKETBALL

reg. 34.99

29⁹⁹

* HIGH-TECH COMPOSITE COVER FOR ALL SURFACES



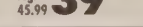
SPALDING

'ZK' COMPOSITE BASKETBALL

reg. 45.99

39⁹⁹

* HIGH-TECH COMPOSITE COVER FOR ALL SURFACES



#61-118

'NBA' LEATHER GAME BALL

reg. 79.99

69⁹⁹

* HIGH-TECH COMPOSITE COVER FOR ALL SURFACES



SIMMONS



'PRO SPORT' 8-POWER BINOCULAR

reg. 89.99

39⁹⁹

* ROTATED PORRO PRISM DESIGN FOR COMPACT LOOK/FEEL

SIMMONS 'PRO SPORT' 10-POWER BINOCULAR reg. 99.99

49⁹⁹

BUSHNELL

20-POWER SPOTTING SCOPE

reg. 119.99

79⁹⁹

Includes Tripod



BINOCULARS/OPTICS



Fits in the Palm of your Hand!

19⁹⁹

8-POWER COMPACT BINOCULAR

reg. 79.99

24⁹⁹

* #0402 10-POWER BINOCULARS reg. 89.99

29⁹⁹

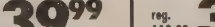
* #30-1173 12-POWER BINOCULARS reg. 99.99

39⁹⁹

12-POWER ARMORED BINOCULAR

reg. 99.99

39⁹⁹



RUGGED EXPOSURE

7 POWER ZOOM BINOCULAR

reg. 129.99

89⁹⁹

* FULLY COATED OPTICS

* RUBBER ARMORED

59⁹⁹

10-POWER MONOCULAR

reg. 42.99

9⁹⁹

7-POWER WATERPROOF BINOCULAR

reg. 129.99

89⁹⁹



59⁹⁹

7-POWER WATERPROOF BINOCULAR

reg. 129.99

89⁹⁹

* FULLY COATED OPTICS

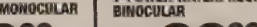
* RUBBER ARMORED

59⁹⁹

7-POWER WATERPROOF BINOCULAR

reg. 129.99

89⁹⁹



Famous Trails

Self-energizing Power Supply, just squeeze lever once.

100

NIGHT VISION SCOPE

SEE IN TOTAL DARKNESS

reg. 299.99

199⁹⁹

VERY SMALL & CONVENIENT. INFRARED ATTACHMENT REQUIRES 3V BATTERY.

199⁹⁹

25 POWER BRASS TELESCOPE

reg. 39.99

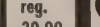
19⁹⁹

* BRASS CONSTRUCTION

* 30mm OBJECTIVE

* WITH CASE

19⁹⁹



PRICES IN EFFECT THROUGH CHRISTMAS. ADVERTISED ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE STOCK ON HAND.

OUTDOORS

SKATES...at



SOLAR-POWERED AM/FM RADIO FLASHLIGHT



reg. 44.99
34.99

• ALSO POWERED BY BATTERIES, A/C ADAPTOR OR BY THE DYNAMO CRANK HANDLE

Batteries & A/C Adaptor Not Included.



'TALK-ABOUT 250'

2-WAY RADIO
Range up to 2 miles.
14 channel selection plus 38 privacy codes combine for a total of 532 channel configurations! Back-lit LCD display for easy readability.
(Range varies depending on terrain and conditions. Batteries not included.)

reg. 124.99
99.99



SAVE \$25

MAGELLAN

'GPS 2000 XL' LOCATOR

GREAT FOR FISHING, HIKING, BOATING AND HUNTING!

- TRACKS UP TO 12 SATELLITES
- EASY TO READ DISPLAY
- PLOTTER SHOWS YOUR ROUTE & PROGRESS

(Range varies depending on terrain and conditions. Batteries not included.)

reg. 199.99
159.99



SAVE \$40



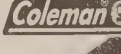
'MESA' 3-LB. POLY FILL SLEEPING BAG
reg. 22.99
16.99

• MACHINE WASHABLE
• 33" x 75"



'AZTEC' 4-LB. FILL SLEEPING BAG
reg. 39.99
29.99

• NYLON TAFFETA OUTER SHELL
• BRUSHED TRICOT LINING
• 33" x 75"



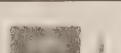
'Hollofil II' MUMMY STYLE
15"-RATED 38-OZ. FILL SLEEPING BAG
reg. 69.99
59.99

• NYLON COVER
• NYLON LINING
• 32" x 82"
• STUFF BAG INCLUDED



PORTABLE GAS RANGE
reg. 24.99
17.99

• ELECTRONIC IGNITION
• BUILT-IN WIND PROTECTOR
Fuel Not Included.



COMPACT MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL
WITH CASE
reg. 69.99
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PREMIUM 'TRAILBED' w/ PUMP
after sale 59.99
39.99

• 26" x 73" x 4"
• COMES WITH BUILT-IN 7" PILLOW



KEYCHAIN VOICE RECORDER
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• INCLUDES BATTERIES
• RECORD & PLAYBACK MESSAGES
• NFL SOUNDS & PLAYSET BUILT IN



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• INCLUDES BATTERY
• BUTTON EAR PHONES



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'SIDEWINDER' GRAPHITE F/W FLY ROD
reg. 19.99
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• CORK OR FOAM GRIPS
• CERAMIC GUIDES



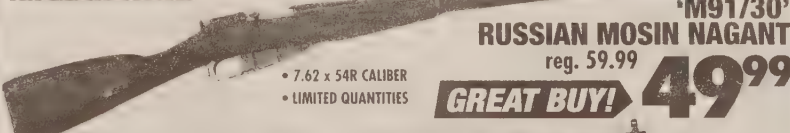
'QUANTUM' FRESHWATER SPIN or ZEBCO 'HEAT' SPINCAST ROD/REEL COMBO
reg. 25.99 or 34.99
19.99



'KWIKDRAW' TACKLE BOX
TACKLE NOT INCLUDED
reg. 39.99
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Military Collectible Rifles at Great Low Prices!

PRIMARY RUSSIAN BATTLE RIFLE IN WWII!



'M91/30' RUSSIAN MOSIN NAGANT
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• 7.62 x 54R CALIBER
• LIMITED QUANTITIES

• SIDE-MOUNTED BAYONET
• 5-ROUND MAGAZINE
• 7.62 x 54R CALIBER

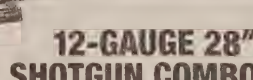
SAVE \$30

SPORTING ARMS



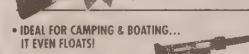
12-GAUGE 28" VENT RIB PUMP SHOTGUN COMBO
reg. 299.99
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• HANDLES 2 1/4" or 3" SHELLS
• CABLE LOCK INCLUDED
• INCLUDES 18 1/4" EXTRA BARREL



'DEFENDER' 12-GA. 8-SHOT PUMP SHOTGUN
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249.99

• SHORT BARREL
• HANDLES 2 3/4" OR 3" SHOTSHELLS



'MODEL 597' .22LR CAL. RIFLE
reg. 169.99
124.99

• 10-ROUND MAG.
• SELF-LOADING



'870 EXPRESS' 3 1/2" MAGNUM 12-GAUGE SHOTGUN
reg. 349.99
329.99

• 26" BARREL
• HANDLES ALL 12-GA. LOADS
• SYNTHETIC STOCK

REMINGTON 'MODEL 597' STAINLESS STEEL RIFLE
reg. 211.99
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AFTER \$20 FACTORY REBATE.

AFTER \$20 FACTORY REBATE.



'MERLIN '99' YOUTH'S SOFT SKATES

• EXPANDS 3 SIZES
• QUICK LACING SYSTEM
• LOW PROFILE FRAME
• 70mm/78A FULL SIZE WHEELS
• PRECISION BEARINGS
• ADJUSTABLE TOE CAP

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GREAT PRICE!

Big 5 Low Price



'CAMANO' RECREATIONAL
• ABEC 3 BEARINGS w/ ALUMINUM SPACERS
Big 5 Low Price
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SOFT SKATE!



'TAOS' MEN'S SOFT BUCKLE/LACE
• REMOVABLE LACE & BUCKLE LINED
• NYLON LAMBA
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SAVE \$20



'CHICAGO' QUAD ADULT'S ROLLER SKATES
• TRADITIONAL 4-WHEEL LACE-UPS
• SIZES 5-10
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GREAT PRICE!

PROTECTIVE



'CLASSIC' HELMET



Big 5 Low Price
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FIVE 40 AGGRESSIVE HELMET



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SELECTED STORES ONLY
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LEFT or RIGHT HAND HOCKEY STICK
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NIKE 'BOLERO' YOUTH'S HOCKEY GLOVES
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SALE PRICE



'PROMO' skateboard
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'RACE' skateboard
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SKATE



'STREET SCOOTER'



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'RACE' skateboard
reg. 34.99
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the Gift They
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'ATLAS'
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RECREATIONAL
• SPEED LACES WITH ANKLE
POWER STRAP
• WICKING, BREATHABLE
LINER WITH INTEGRATED
INTERNAL SUPPORT
• ROCKERABLE GLASS-
REINFORCED NYLON FRAME
• ABE 3 BEARINGS
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59.99

ULTRA
WHEELS

'XPANDER'
YOUTH'S
• BOOT ADJUSTS 4 SIZES
WITH EXPANDABLE LINER
• ABE 1 BEARINGS
• MOLDED 2-PIECE
BOOT & CUFF
• LOCKING 2-BUCKLE
CLOSURE SYSTEM
GREAT PRICE!
reg. 69.99
59.99

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'VIABLADE'
ADULT'S
3-BUCKLE
• ABE 3 BEARINGS
• 2-PIECE GLASS
REINFORCED
NYLON FRAME
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AFTER
REBATE

Chicago
'TECH 10'
RECREATIONAL
• 76mm/82A WHEELS
• ABE 3 BEARINGS
• 2-PIECE SHELL
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SAVE \$20

'VIABLADE'
ADULT'S
3-BUCKLE
• ABE 3 BEARINGS
• 2-PIECE GLASS
REINFORCED
NYLON FRAME
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AFTER
REBATE

BAUER
'VAPOR XL'
ADULT'S HOCKEY
• HYPER RAZOR EDGE
WHEELS
• LIGHTWEIGHT SILVER
NYLON 1000
Big 5 Low Price
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SELECTED
STORES ONLY

'BURNER 212'
ADULT'S
FITNESS
• AIR CELL CUSHION
• INTEGRATED LINER
• 74mm/80A WHEELS
• ABE 3 BEARINGS
reg. 139.99
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AFTER
REBATE

Farland
'F27'
YOUTH'S HOCKEY
• ALUMINUM FRAME
• 72mm/85A WHEELS
• ABE 1 BEARINGS
reg. 79.99
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GREAT GIFT!
SELECTED
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ACCESSORIES
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3-PACK PADS
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HOP UP KIT
Big 5
Sale Price
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KOHO
'PROFLEX' YOUTH'S
HOCKEY STICK
• 19-PLY BIRCH
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KHOHO 'PROFLEX' ADULT'S
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NINTENDO 64
'DONKEY KONG'
IN-1 SCOOTER/
SKATEBOARD
• 8" x 20" ALL WOOD DECK
• ALL STEEL T-HANDLE WITH
MUSHROOM GRIPS
• WIDE TRACK WHEELS WITH
PRECISION BEARINGS
reg. 34.99
29.99

VALTERRA
'HAND' or 'GHOST'
SKATEBOARD
• 8" x 31" 7-PLY
MAPLE TOP & BOTTOM
LAMINATED DECK
• DOUBLE KICKTAIL WITH
ALUMINUM TRUCK & HANGER
• DOUBLE ACTION CUSHIONS
• 54mm x 36mm INJECTED PU
WHEELS w/ ABE 1 BEARINGS
reg. 34.99
27.99
VALTERRA 'UNITY' 8" x 31"
MAPLE DECK SKATEBOARD
reg. 44.99... **36.99**

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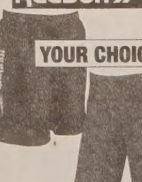
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